

**Sullivan School Board Meeting  
February 11, 2015**

**Present**

Stephanie Jacques Kleine, Paul Bolduc, Risa Keene, Ken Dassau, Toni Ellsworth

**Absent.** Melinda Scherpa

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 7:09pm by Stephanie.

**Approval of Minutes**

Stephanie motioned to approve the minutes from the Board's meeting from February 5th, 2015.

Second by Paul. Minutes approved.

**Budget**

The Board discussed protocol in the best ways to keep the public informed about the key points of our yearly budget. Primarily our student enrollment data flow from year to year which may significantly changes our tuition costs.

Risa noted the importance of educating the public about the realities of the volatility of our unique school district budgeting issue.

Toni noted some of the budget shortfalls from this past year. Student services, operational maintenance of the school building and regular ed and special ed tuition costs.

Regular ed and special ed costs were \$73,000 over. This was entirely due to the volatile student population fluctuations.

Stephanie noted her concern about the projected budget for next year due to the present budget's changes and possibility of a shortfall. The difficulty is centered upon the projections and how difficult it is to accurately predict them 18 months out.

**Warrant Articles**

The Board reviewed the school district's warrant and budget articles.

The Board then signed the Warrant after reviewing it.

**Superintendent's Report**

Ken reminded the board about the responsibilities to adequately post and submit meeting minutes.

Stephanie confirmed board responsibilities to ensure that we continue to meet this standard.

Ken noted the current status of the MS27 and the eventual move out of the DRA draft status.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Toni discussed the current bills noting the bussing for our preschoolers, MRSD tuition and building loan as well as the First Student contract. Toni noted that the payment to First Student was not being submitted to the correct address and that it is now resolved.

Toni then shared the actual budget expenditures which are projected out through the end of the year and note a shortfall of \$110,000. Toni shared her discussions with business administrator B. Gallagher about the shortfall and that the district would have to go into the Capital Reserve Trust Fund to make up the difference.

Toni reiterated the volatility of our budget due to fluctuating student populations. Toni wondered about the contract wording with Nelson and Keene to potentially address the issue.

Ken noted that the tuition rates are set by the towns and we share a mutual relationship focused on student's needs. Ken shared his experiences with other school districts which were facing budget shortfalls and their different choices that they made to address the issue.

Risa inquired about the costs of tuition and Stephanie noted an increase across the board.

### **Clerk Report**

Mary requested that the Board submit their Annual Report for the annual town report.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Upcoming Meetings**

There will be two meetings on that evening Tuesday the 10th of March for the vote and then on Wednesday the 11th we will have the town meeting to vote the articles.

Our next meeting on March 18th.

Times will be posted at a later date.

### **Adjournment**

Stephanie motion to adjourn. Seconded by Paul

Meeting closed at 9:22PM

Respectfully Submitted by Paul Bolduc