



TOWN OF WORTHINGTON

**Worthington Public School District
R.H. Conwell Building
School Committee Meeting
March 09, 2015
Minutes**

Members present: Chairman John McDonald, Maria Bebee, Debbie Carnes, Alex Lak and Alison Todd.

Guests: Sheree Keith Higgins, Heather Dufresne, Fran Gougeon, Superintendent Jurgensen, Joe Boudreau, Tom Wisnauckas, Sue Levreault, Gayle Lucie, Marsha Salor and Kate Kelly.

1. Call to Order: Meeting was opened at 7:10 P.M.

2. Audience Participation- Fran submitted a packet of Superintendent's Jurgensens' sheets, added two pages on the steering committee process and the salary schedule.

3. Routine Matters

3.1 Approval of minutes: Will revisit February 11 past minutes. January 27th minutes have not been completed yet. Any other approval of minutes has been waved.

3.2 Correspondence: Bill for public hearing ad.

Country Journal article quoting DESE support of the lawsuit against Worthington's withdrawal was bogus and caused a lot of aggravation. Mike Donovan was confronted and will write up a retraction and correction. A hearing will be held on Worthington's motion to dismiss concerning the lawsuit on April 16th at 2:00 in Hampshire District Court.

3.3 Superintendent's Report:

SPED students: Craig contacted Alice Taverna at Gateway Regional for information about SPED students. Ms Taverna is making copies of IEPs, census and special education information.

Web page: The press release is posted on the Worthington link that has been added to the Hampshire Regional home page. Craig's packet on municipal and regional school district budgets with terminology descriptions and budget development has been posted on the Hampshire Regional's web page.

Master Calendar: Craig brought the draft master calendar and is committed to have a single calendar with all four schools represented.

Start-up date: Students start-up date is August 31 if approved; otherwise it will be Sept. 1.

Discussions: Lunch procedures and Bussing bid specifications. Worthington will have their own budget for transportation.

Applications: Craig delivered thirteen applications for the Principal position. The Search committee will screen applicants, decide who to interview, and schedule the interviews. Craig stressed the importance of confidentiality. Deliberations will be held in executive session. The final interview is public. Search Committee includes the School Committee, Heather Dufresne and Sean Reagan. The applications will be held in the file cabinet that will have a locking mechanism.

Registration: John will send in another article to the Country Journal reiterating that the parents need to make a choice of where their students will attend school. Debbie has included this in her draft of the annual town report. Mailings and telephone calls were also considered.

Administrative services: Craig will send a memo showing what the different model of what services could be provided from HRSD. A meeting can be held with the Selectmen, the Treasurer and the Town Accountant. The contract needs to be approved by July 1st.

4. Budget: Alex made a motion to adopt the Worthington School District budget of \$984,912. Maria seconded the motion. Alison made a motion to amend the budget to include an additional \$53,000 for the purpose of hiring a preschool teacher and providing classroom materials and continued education of that person for the purpose of having a separated preschool. The motion was not seconded. Four were in favor of approving the budget of \$984,912. One abstained.

Preschool: After attending a Finance Committee meeting, Alison stated that a revolving fund could be established to provide seed money to fund a full time teacher if the school is fully enrolled. A paraprofessional could be brought in if classroom is well attended. The town would be asked to commit \$20,000 to \$30,000 for the seed money. Town Counsel is looking into the legality of screening all students before they start and if needs are identified, referring them to their own town for IEP screening. Craig does not recommend this action. Conditional acceptance can be looked at as discrimination and can become a real issue. Joe Boudreau stated that the Finance Committee proposed a second article to see if the town would vote to establish a preschool for town residents only and to operate the preschool with a revolving fund with receipts of tuition from parents to be deposited in the revolving fund.

5. Next meeting and subsequent meetings: The Search Committee will be meeting on March 15 to discuss applications for the Principal position from 1:30 to 3 P.M. The next regular meeting for the School Committee will be on March 19, 2015 at 6:30 P.M.

6. Adjournment: Maria made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 P.M. Alex seconded the motion. All were in favor. 0 opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne C. Lemieux
Recording Secretary