

**FRANKLIN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY  
February 20, 2017  
5:00pm**

**Present: Board Members:** Tim Magnant, Chairperson, Thomas Gates, Bob Berger, Joyce Hakey, Principal, Winton Goodrich, Superintendent, Becky Hart, Business Manager

**Others present:** Yvon Dandurand, Peter Magnant, Carol Richard, Kim Gates, John Ho arrived later.

**AGENDA**

**Call Meeting to Order-** Tim Magnant called the meeting to order at 5:00pm in the Grade 6 classroom.

**Approval of Minutes:** Bob Berger moved, seconded by Thomas Gates to approve the January 5<sup>th</sup>, and January 23, 2017 school board meeting minutes. The board approved the motion on a 3-0 vote.

**Check Warrants:** Check warrants were tabled.

**Principal's Report**

School Happenings- Joyce provided an update on school happenings, including drama performance, (many thanks to Debbie Berger) MVU Band and Master Singers visit, NAEP testing and In-Service Activities. (Abbreviated Principal's report due to budget information meeting.)

Upcoming Activities- Spirit Week and Senior Dinner to be held on February 23.

**Superintendent's Report**

Win provided information on the Legislative Update. There are various Act 46 bills. Will need new policy on Alcohol Drug and Tobacco to include all under one policy.

Franklin NE Teachers and Franklin West ESP Contract have settled their contracts. He has provided the board with the information on the salary and health insurance agreements reached.

Win went over the SY18 School Calendar that the Supervisory Union created. School starts on August 29<sup>th</sup> with the last day June 15, 2018.

## Executive Session:

Bob Berger moved, seconded by Thomas Gates to enter executive session for negotiations update at 5:28pm. Board approved. The board exited executive session at 5:34pm.

## Old Business

Bob and Win provided an Act 46 update to the board. Bob reported that they did not have a quorum at the last meeting. They are still working on financial comparison and working on through the list of tasks. The next meeting will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm at MVU.

The board moved to the school library for the budget presentation.

## 7:00 PM Budget Information Meeting-School Library

The board provided the visitors from the community with the following FY18 Budget Powerpoint Presentation:

### ■ Topics

- Proposed Budget
- Net Ed. Spending
- Special Education
- Tax Rate Impact
- Budget Take Home

### ■ 2017-2018 Budget

■ The proposed budget for FY 2017-2018 is **\$1,712,062.**

■ This represents a decrease of **\$69,939** over the current years budget of \$1,782,001.

The School Board, administration and staff have worked collaboratively to build a budget that is fiscally sound and yet supports the educational needs of all students.

### ■ NET EDUCATION SPENDING

"NET EDUCATION SPENDING" is the District's approved expenditures (Budget and any approved articles) minus projected revenues.

FY18 BUDGET = \$ 1,712,062

PROJ REVENUES = \$ 131,779

NET ED SPENDING = \$ 1,580,283

÷ PUPILS of 122.14 = \$ 12,938

■ FY18 Budget Article Language  
Act 68 Prescribed Wording:

"Shall the voters of the Franklin Town School District approve the school board to expend **\$1,712,062.00**, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in Education Spending of **\$12,938.29** per Equalized Pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is **10.73%** higher than spending for the current year."

■ NET ED SPENDING COMPARISON

FY18 Net Ed Spending per Pupil = \$12,938

FY17 Net Ed Spending per Pupil = \$11,684

Difference of \$1,254, or 10.73%, over FY17

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State Average Ed Spending FY17 = \$14,652

■ NET ED SPENDING COMPARISON

	<b>FY17</b>	<b>FY18</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Budget	\$1,782,001	\$1,712,062	(\$69,939)
Revenue	\$254,695	\$131,779	(\$122,916)
Net Ed. Spending	\$1,527,306	\$1,580,283	\$52,977
Equalized Pupils	130.72	122.14	(8.58)
Net Ed. Spending per Equalized	\$11,684	\$12,938	\$1,254

Pupil			
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Salaries & Benefits:

Professional Staff Salaries

Decrease from FY17 budget due to staffing changes and shift of .5FTE Preschool position to SU Early Childhood Program assessment.

Support Staff Wages

Changes from FY17 budget due to increase in wages and staffing changes; .3FTE Preschool support position was shifted from Instructional to Early Childhood Programs

Health & Dental Insurances

Insurance is group-purchased with other school districts across VT. Effective 1/1/18, the plans offered by VSBIT will closely align with the plans offered through the HealthCare Exchange

■ Special Education Programs

Special education budgets are dependent on the number of children eligible and the types of services they require. Eligible children with disabilities may require varying amounts of professional, material, and equipment support each year. This is by law based on individual not group needs.

The State reimburses approximately 55-57% of special education expenditures back to the district so that the full impact of increased costs are not totally funded by local taxes.

Beginning in 2017-18, the majority of special education revenue will be shifted to the SU and will be net from expenses prior to assessing special education costs to the local schools.

■ Special Education Transfer:

As mandated by state law, all Special Education expenses, with the exception of support staff, was moved to the SU. This includes student tuition, special education services, supplies and equipment.

Costs at the SU level are budgeted in the same manner as they are in the local Special Education budget; however instead of appearing in separate budget line items, expenses are now reflected within the FNWSU assessments to schools.

■ Shift of Special Education Revenues:

Beginning in the 2017-18 school year, the VT Agency of Education (AOE) will be sending Special Education Revenues to the entity making the expenditures. With the majority of Special Education costs at the SU level, most of this revenue will be sent to the SU and will offset some of the Special Education expense BEFORE being assessed to each member district.

The only Special Education revenue that will appear on the Tax Rate page will be reimbursement revenue for paraprofessional related expenses still at the local level. The anticipated revenue into the SU for special education costs are being shown net from both the Special Education and Early Education Assessments. This has created a large one-time reduction to the school budget.

Without the offsetting revenue, the actual budget increase would be \$98,734.

■ Franklin County Spending

	<u>Spending/Pupil</u>
<b>FY18 Franklin (K-6)</b>	<b>\$ 12,938</b>
FY18 County Average	\$ 13,712
VT Statewide Average [FY17]	\$ 14,652

■ **How Do We Compare Statewide to Similar Schools?**

VT Agency of Education financial data indicates that the Franklin FY16 budget per equalized pupil ranked 96<sup>th</sup> out of 96 schools for Elementary Schools w/designated union high school category (with 96 being the lowest spending)

■ **Factors Affecting the Tax Rate:**

- Budget** – Proposed by School Board, decided by Taxpayers
- Special Article(s)** – Proposed by School Board, decided by Taxpayers
- Revenues** – includes fund balance carryover, local and state/federal funding not related to property taxes and/or State Education fund.
- Property Tax Yield** – Set by legislature (current projections based on Yield of \$10,076.
- Ratio of Resident Students** – for FY18, resident Franklin students = 51.55% Elem / 48.45% MVU (FY17 for comparison = 54.61% elem and 45.39% high school)
- Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)** – Franklin 102.25% FY18 down slightly from 103.93% in FY17

■ Projected Homestead Tax Rate  
[after CLA adjustment]

	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Franklin	\$0.633	\$0.647	<b>\$0.014</b>

MVUM/HS                      \$0.613 \$0.650 \$0.037

Based on current calculation, total projected tax rate would increase 5.1 cents, or \$51 per \$100,000 assessed homestead value.

FY18 Projected Rates are calculated using an estimated Property Tax Yield of \$10,076 – actual yield and tax rate to be billed may vary based on any legislative action taken during the current session.

- Overall Budget Key Points
- Franklin Budget Factors
  - Added .6 Special Education position (response to 70% Special Education student increase)
  - Tuition costs & transportation
- Tax Rate Factors
  - Equalized Pupils decreased by 8.58
  - Franklin School still below county and statewide Equalized per Pupil costs
  - Franklin School portion of Tax Rate up 1.4 cents

### ■ **Budget Vote**

Town Meeting – Tuesday, March 7, 2017 in the Franklin School Gymnasium.  
Town Meeting will be starting at **9:00am**.

Polls will be open from 7:00am to 7:00pm for ballot voting

Thank you for attending this informational meeting.

Yvon Dandurand suggested that graduating students from MVU be surveyed about how they feel they were prepared/not prepared for secondary education. Act 46 looks at all students being Franklin students, not Franklin Vs MVU students, and improving student opportunities for all students. Should know what some of the things past students are doing now- lots of good things happening. Win shared VSAC FY 17 student results- VSAC meaning students went on to college but wouldn't include students not going to college? The current timeline for Act 46 is hoping to bring the plan in September to vote and then bring to the Agency of Education in November. Agency of Education has put out stringent guidelines to alternative models and FNW is looking at. Frustrating is that if you go in the manner that the AOE wants, you get tax rate credit and AOE will assist; but not using their preferred model, the Supervisory Union is on its own. Next meeting is March 28<sup>th</sup> at MVU.

### Meeting Dates

- Franklin Board Meeting - March 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 PM

- FNWSU Board Meeting - March 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM at Sheldon Elementary School
- Act 46 Independent Study Committee Meeting - March 28<sup>th</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 PM @ MVU Library  
Negotiations Meetings
- Teacher Negotiations - March 2<sup>nd</sup>, April 17<sup>th</sup>, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM, MVU Library
- Support Staff Negotiations - Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00 PM, MVU Library

The board adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Gates, School Board Clerk  
by Pierrette Bouchard School Board Secretary