

**FRANKLIN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
February 9, 2016
6:00pm**

Present: Tim Magnant, Chairperson, Thomas Gates, Bob Berger. Joyce Hakey, Principal, Winton Goodrich, Superintendent, Becky Hart, Business Manager, Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary

Others present: Yvon Dandurand arrived at 7pm for the Budget Informational Meeting.

AGENDA

Call Meeting to Order- Tim Magnant called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.

- Agenda Revision

Visitors from Community and Staff: None

Approval of Minutes: Thomas Gates moved, seconded by Bob Berger to approve the January 13, 2016 board minutes as presented. The board approved the motion on a 3-0 vote.

Check Warrants: Bob Berger moved, seconded by Thomas Gates to approve the January Check Warrants totaling \$219,746.67.

Budget Info Meeting Preparation: The board went over the power point presentation and obtaining clarifying information on the factors affecting the tax rate, the legislative changes to the property tax yield as well as the projected homestead tax rate. The Franklin homestead tax rate is increasing only .002 from both the MVU and Franklin's budgets less than half of one cent, resulting in a \$2.00 increase on a \$100,000 home.

Principal's Report

School Happenings: Joyce Hakey reported that the Senior Dinner is next week on February 18th. They had a productive In-Service Day on January 18th and 12 day on the 29th. They did a lot of Action Plan work and planning out the remainder of the year. They prepped for the SBAC testing and developed new performance tasks. They reviewed Smart Goals and the local assessment plan. They have completed some benchmark pieces for writing. The school had fun

with some activities around the Super Bowl with football questions involving math responses, a Super Bowl luncheon, for staff, and cookies for students. Joyce congratulated Debbie Berger, director, on the production of "Little Mermaid". The students were able to attend the dress rehearsal and then there were two shows at the Town Hall that were attended for 400 people.

Superintendent's Report:

Act 46 Update: Win provided an update on the area supervisory unions consolidation efforts. The Franklin Northeast SU is moving towards unification with Berkshire, Enosburg and Richford with Montgomery and Bakersfield contemplating a side by side united effort. They have scheduled a vote date of June 7th for this decision. Franklin Central Supervisory Union have scheduled a March 1st vote date to unite St. Albans City, St. Albans Town, Fairfield and BFA St. Albans schools. Franklin West is moving forward with a \$20,000 study to consolidate Fletcher, Fairfax and Georgia with South Hero expressing interest in joining them.

Solar Electric: Winton Goodrich met with Sun Commons to consider their community solar options. Sun Commons offers a 10% electricity savings with no up-front investment. They have a learning component for schools. There is a 30% savings with the Vermont Consortium but this does not seem to be moving ahead for now. At this time, Vermont Electric Cooperative will not do any more with solar power for now so Franklin will not be able to take advantage of solar power until this is lifted.

Joyce Hakey read a thank you letter from an MVU student who did job shadowing at Franklin School.

Next board meetings:

- Next Franklin School Board Meeting March 15th @ 6:30pm.
- FNWSU Board Meeting April 6 in Swanton at 6:30pm.

FY17 COMMUNITY BUDGET PRESENTATION

The board moved their meeting to the school library for the community FY17 budget presentation. The board members read and explained the following powerpoint presentation:

- The proposed budget for FY 2015-2016 is **\$1,782,001**.
- This represents an increase of **\$65,079** over the current years budget of \$1,716,922.

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” is the District’s approved expenditures (Budget and any approved articles) minus projected revenues.

FY17 BUDGET =	\$ 1,782,001
PROJ REVENUES =	<u>\$ 254,695</u>
NET ED SPENDING =	\$ 1,527,306
÷ PUPILS of 130.72 =	\$ 11,684

FY17 Net Ed Spending per Pupil = \$11,683.80

FY16 Net Ed Spending per Pupil = \$11,262.61

Difference of \$421, or 3.74%, over FY16

*** **

State Average Ed Spending FY16 = \$14,421.29

Act 46 Prescribed Wording:

“Shall the voters of the Franklin Town School District approve the school board to expend **\$1,782,001.00**, 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 **\$11,683.80** per Equalized Pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is **3.74%** higher than spending for the current year.

Professional Staff Salaries

increase over FY16 budget due to negotiated increase and staffing changes.

Support Staff Wages

increase over FY16 budget due to increase in wages along with changing student needs.

Health & Dental Insurances

Insurance is group-purchased with other school districts across VT.

Health Insurance Premium Increase for 2016-17 = 7.9%

Dental Insurance Premium decreasing for 2016-17 = 5.7%

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. There is variation based on the number and type of student needs in each school year. 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.

As mandated by state law, the transfer of Special Education costs to the FNWSU began in the current 2015-16 school year, with the transfer of professional staff salaries and benefits.

In the 2016-17 school year, all Special Education expenses, with the exception of support staff, will move 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.

In March 2015, voters approved a special article for a 3-year borrowing to purchase lawn-mowing equipment to be shared with the Town. A zero-turn mower was purchased, at a cost of \$9,000, which was a significant savings and the borrowing of funds was not necessary. The school put a deposit down with FY15 funds and the balance paid in FY16. No additional funds will need to be appropriated in FY17 for this purpose.

	<u>Spending/Pupil</u>
FY17 Franklin (K-6)	\$ 11,684
FY17 County Average	\$ 13,118
VT Statewide Average [FY16]	\$ 14,421

VT Agency of Education financial data indicates that the Franklin FY15 budget per equalized pupil ranked 103rd out of 103 schools for Elementary Schools w/designated union high school category (with 103 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 \$9,870

Ratio of Resident Students - for FY17, resident Franklin students = 54.61% Elem / 45.39% MVU

Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) - Franklin 103.94% FY17 down slightly from 104.36% in FY16

Projected Homestead Tax Rate (After the CLA Adjustment)

	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Franklin	\$0.621	\$0.622	\$0.001
MVUMHS	\$0.602	\$0.603	\$0.001

Based on current calculation, total tax rate would increase less than half of one cent

FY17 Projected Rates are calculated using an estimated Property Tax Yield of \$9,870 - actual yield and tax rate to be billed may vary based on any legislative action taken during the current session.

Budget Vote

Town Meeting - Tuesday, March 1, 2016 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

The board asked if anyone had questions. Yvon Dandurand felt that there was a lack of with transparency on Act 46 and the supervisory union budgets. The board explained that they have provided all of the information that they have obtained through the Act 46 study. They hope to gain more information that they can share regarding the financial incentives and advantages/disadvantages towards consolidation. Becky Hart explained the budgets will be in the town annual report. Tim Magnant said that the school board could not attend the next Town Select-Board meeting. The school board will meet with the Select-Board during the Select-Board's scheduled meeting on March 2nd at 7pm

Act 46 \$20,000 Unification Study: Win Goodrich explained that if the school districts decided to pursue an Act 46 unification study, that the committee would answer the following questions in accordance with Title 16 Education 706b.

- 1) *The committee would identify the names of the school districts the committee considers necessary to the establishment of the proposed union.*
 - 2) *The names of additional school districts the committee considers advisable to include in the proposed union school district.*
- Win explained that a school (for example Franklin) could participate in the study as an advisable member. When the districts vote to merge and if the advisable school district town votes no to merging, the other districts, could still legally unite without the advisable district. Otherwise, if any of the school districts considered necessary votes no to merger, then none of the districts can merge.
- 3) *The grades to be operated by the proposed union school district. (For example PreK-12).*
 - 4) *Cost and location of any proposed new schools-such as new buildings or renovation*
 - 5) *A plan for the first year of the union school district's operation for the transportation of students, the assignment of staff, and curriculum that is consistent with existing contracts, collective bargaining agreements, or other provisions of law.*
 - 6) *How is the debt shared?*

- 7) The specific pieces of real property of proposed member districts that the union shall acquire, their valuation, and how the union school district shall pay for them.*
- 8) The allocation of capital and operating expenses of the union school district among the member districts.*
- 9) How do we proportion the board representatives?*
- 10) The term of the office of the board of directors.*
- 11) The date on which the union school district proposal will be submitted to the voters.*
- 12) The date on which the union school district will begin operating schools and providing educational services.*
- 13) Any other matters, the committee considers pertinent can be put in the articles of agreement.*

Win explained with number 13, a town school district could request to include in the articles of Agreement that the school will not close unless the town votes on it instead of the board. Tim felt the best way to move forward will be at the Supervisory Union meeting on April 6th so that all the school boards can discuss together on whether or not to complete a \$20,000 Act 46 study.

The board recessed at 8:35pm. Pierrette Bouchard, Win Goodrich, Becky Hart and Joyce Hakey left the meeting. Tom Gates moved, seconded by Bob Berger to enter executive session at 8:42pm for a contract issue. The board exited executive session at 9:35pm. No action was taken. On a move by Bob Berger, seconded by Tom Gates, the board meeting was adjourned at 9:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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