

FRANKLIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

Joined by the Town Of Franklin Select-Board

June 24, 2014 7:00pm

Franklin School Library

Present:

School Board Members: Timothy Magnant, Bob Berger and David Rood.

Select-Board Members Present: Peter Magnant, Chair, Yvon Dandurand and Brooks Sturtevant.

Others Present: Representatives Chuck Pierce and Steve Beyor. Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary.

Call to Order: Tim Magnant called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Citizens and Staff: Representatives Chuck Pierce and Steve Beyor were present and provided a review of some of the bills being considered in Montpelier including the H883-the Consolidation Bill. Chuck provided the history of the school consolidation bill from inception to the last week of the legislative session. Chuck and Steve did not vote for the bill. Chuck comes from a small school background and he is concerned that passage of this bill could mean that small schools will eventually close. Larger towns will have more weight (in the way of representation on the board of the K-12 system) and he believes that the larger schools could absorb the smaller schools in the name of efficiency and more opportunities. Tim Magnant expressed strongly that this will mean the end of local control and he did not see where there would be any savings. David Rood explained the success of smaller schools with good test scores and how Franklin was chosen in a Root of Success several years ago. Peter Magnant felt that boards will have less power and this bill seemed to empower Superintendents. He also felt that the school is the pride of the community and this bill will take away the control of their schools. Tim requested that the Representatives keep the board informed on the status of the bill. Chuck stated that he will not vote for this bill and asked the board members who felt so strongly to come and provide testimony next year in Montpelier when it is being considered at the committee level. Tim and Peter both expressed that they will be willing to testify against the bill.

Tim Magnant stated although Montpelier would like the school boards to keep their budgets down, that there are so many unfunded mandates. He mentioned a new mandate that the two representatives did vote for was the funding of teacher retirement. Pierrette explained that there will be a new school employer assessment, charged to school districts, for each new teacher hired who has not previously been part of the pension system. She explained that by FY16, it is estimated to cost \$375,000 and by FY2024, the cost will be 5.8 million statewide and will be paid by property taxpayers. The State Teachers' retirement is meant to be a State responsibility not a local school district cost. Chuck Pearce expressed that this is a compromise and everyone had to give something so that the teacher retirement system could be adequately funded. Pierrette explained further that the compromise could have been taken off the top of the education fund rather than assigned to district budgets. This is inequitable and unfair to school

districts that have a larger turn over of teachers because of lower salary scales. Chuck explained that he was not on this committee.

Brooks Sturtevant stated that he did not agree with the law to assign an agency fee to teachers who did not join the Union.

Pierrette inquired about the pre K universal bill that passed and as part of the bill, school districts will pay tuition to pre-qualified programs operated by a public school even if the district of resident operates a pre K Education program. Chuck replied that he was not aware that this was part of the bill and he would look into it.

Steve Beyor and Chuck Pearce left at 8:40pm.

Tim Magnant stated that the tractor that the school currently shares with the Town is getting weak. The mower deck is getting rough and it is starting to get rusty. Tim believes that it is starting to have mechanical problems and wanted to have the Select-Board look along with the school board to see if it needs replacing. Peter explained that the Town needs a bigger snow blower to do the sidewalks. Tim mentioned that perhaps they could look at an industrial snow blower. The two boards discussed the higher costs involved in getting an industrial tractor/snow blower versus a traditional tractor/snow blower. Yvon stated that the Select-Board have considered contracting out the snow blowing and the lawn mowing. Tim replied that perhaps if the two boards combined all the work needed to be completed in one bid that they could get a better discount. Both boards will need to complete some research of buying versus contracting to have all the snow blowing and lawn mowing completed.

Bob Berger made motion, seconded by David Rood to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm. The board voted on a 3-0 vote to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Berger, Board Clerk

by Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary

