

GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Goffstown High School – Library - 27 Wallace Road, Goffstown, NH 03045
Monday, October 23, 2017

School Board Members: Dian McCarthy, Steven Dutton, Reta Chaffee, Ginny McKinnon, Heather Trzepacz, Dan Cloutier, Jenelle O'Brien, Lorry Cloutier, Kristie Curtis

Administration: Brian Balke, Superintendent, Ray Labore, Business Administrator, MaryClaire Barry, Assistant Superintendent

Dian McCarthy called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

Public Comment:

Board Review of 2018-2019 Proposed School District Budget –

Public Schools Infrastructure Fund - Superintendent Balke addressing: Brian informed the Board of a state funded Life/Safety Grant and requested the Board's authorization to submit the grant application for the expansion of the access road at MVMS as well as to build a bus turnaround behind the property. The Board will have to commit matching funds not to exceed \$250,000 (or whichever dollar amount is decided on) to support this project if approved by the state. School District funds may come from one or more of the following unreserved fund balance, use of the 2.5% Contingency fund consistent with the RSA or Capital Reserve Fund to be present to the Goffstown voters in March 2018.

Budget Development – Ray Labore addressing: A Summary of the Proposed Changes and Effects on the Proposed and Default Budget Calculations was reviewed with Board members. The General Fund Budget proposed to the Board on October 16th was \$40,667,434 with adjustments of \$279,733 (decrease) made on October 23rd. Proposed General Fund Budget Proposed as of October 23rd is \$40,447,721. Teacher Retirement Adjustments (for PT staff) proposed on October 16th is \$2,764,095 with adjustments of \$31,266 (increase) resulting from a formula update made on October 23rd. Teacher Retirement Adjustment Proposed as of October 23rd is \$2,815,410. Health Insurance proposed on October 16th was \$4,764,095 with adjustments of \$228,325 (decrease) GMR adjustment from 8.5% to 3.3%. Dental Insurance proposed as of October 16th \$329,081 with adjustments of \$7,569 increase due to a 2.3% increase. Dental Insurance proposed as of October 23rd is \$7,569. Other Adjustments made are Teacher Salary/Stipends – proposed October 16th \$14,974,653 with an adjustment of \$30,243 Decrease due to part time adjustments made. Teacher Salary/Stipends for October 23rd is \$14,944,410. Total Adjustments of \$219,733 which is the total projected impact to the default and proposed budgets as of October 23rd.

Reclassification to Division 1 – Brian Balke Reporting: The impact of the re-classification change will affect baseball and softball. Steve, Frank and Brian walked the fields looking at various field options. Short-term options: \$15K to cover the field needs for JV baseball and softball. Continue to use Roy Park and invest \$10K for infield and fence improvement, \$5K (in-kind donation) for the use of Allard Field and make some repairs to the field where needed however we do not know if the field space will be available to us beyond a year. We continue to have a lease agreement with the Lions Club however they are considering selling Lion Field in the future which perhaps would leave us with one less field. Jenelle O'Brien suggested having a conversation with the Lions regarding the purchase of the field. Perhaps there is a way to reconfigure the field to meet our needs. \$70K+ in renovations/reconstruction of the GHS backfield space. Brian will reach out to vendors and request an assessment of what is needed to bring the field to a required standard. Brian will send maps, photographs and measurements to a vendor and get preliminary numbers. Partner with DPW and P&R regarding the Clinton/Barnard property. Explore

purchasing the 110 acres at the Villa for fields and/or expansion. It was noted that field space is difficult to get in a short amount of time. MVMS students can continue to use the MVMS field however the field is not in the greatest shape and we have never irrigated them. Brian stated that he also explored lighting for the fields which is a larger piece for consideration. Brian has tasked Randy with exploring lighting options. Ginny McKinnon would like to ensure that all parents are given directions to our fields as some parent have missed their child's game or arrived late as they searched for the field location. Ginny would like to have signs made up, at the field locations.

Dan Cloutier cautioned Board members to not get into a situation where we are dependent on off campus fields as transportation will be needed to get to practice. Brian suggested consideration to purchase a commercial van and have the coaches obtain a commercial license.

Dian McCarthy asked the Board members to consider what they will support and bring forward in this budget. Dian feels strongly that the plan should include a vision for turf fields and lights in future years which will benefit our kids and the recreation programs. Ginny McKinnon commented that the school district fields are town fields as well as they are used by Tri-Town and Babe Ruth. Ginny suggested that perhaps the town could support the fields as well. Board members agreed that the Allard Field would be the less expensive way to go for this year and that we could make it work for the home games and keep JV at Roy Park.

The Board will need to respond to NHIAA regarding the re-classification and suggested re-visiting the proposed budget lines to see if there are any items that could wait until next year. This will help to balance out the cost of addressing field space and usage.

The Board discussed creating a new committee, much like the former CAST Committee, to explore fields and infrastructure. The creation of a facilities and field Capital Reserve Fund (CFR) warrant article was also discussed. This CFR would enable the school district to accomplish the long-term vision of having turf and field lights. Board members also discussed placing this item on the CIP Matrix however Dian shared that expending money for turf and lights can be viewed very differently in the community and may have questions regarding the appropriateness of this expenditure.

Funding Coaching Stipends – Brian Balke shared that the stipends average between \$2K - \$2.5K per coach. There is a larger equity piece to all of this and a lot of competing agendas. Some of our co-curricular clubs are run by wonderful teachers who give their time and don't receive a stipend (i.e. Yale Model Congress). Ginny McKinnon suggested starting off by funding 3 co-curricular and 3 coach stipends. Ginny stated that in past years, Lacrosse came to the Board asking to fund a stipend for their coach and that we now have the same request from other sports. Brian stated that due to default budget history, we could not honor the Lacrosse request and suggested that a better way of looking into co-curricular and athletic stipends would be during next year's teacher negotiations. As for those who are currently in stipend positions, those are positions that were included in past contracts. Ginny McKinnon shared that students who participate in co-curricular activities and athletics look at it as more than playing sports or participating in a club, it is a school connection. When considering funding for sports, there is an equity piece that needs to be taken into consideration such as some sports require more equipment and play a longer season. Steven Dutton commented that the Board does not know which club/team did not come forward with a stipend request and that a priority plan is needed in order to evaluate the requests. Ginny McKinnon suggested that the Board start with stipends and then consider team equipment and uniforms which will eliminate going into a huge expense. The Board questioned how gate payments are determined with regard to keeping the gate proceeds or returning them.

Dan Cloutier applauded administration for putting a very nice budget together and gave kudos for not presenting the Board with items that they could not support.

Ginny McKinnon motioned to see where it goes to add 6 unspecified stipend positions at \$2.5K a piece up to \$15K, seconded by Steven Dutton Dan Cloutier asked if the Board would entertain coupling the stipend with a reduction of a current budget expense. The first option is to stagger the purchase of the MVMS wall dividers and the second is to eliminate the AP testing. Board members discussed possible budget item eliminations/reductions. \$33.5K for AP testing; \$70K for MVMS wall dividers; and \$12.5 for the GHS summer reading books. Steven Dutton suggested that the GHS summer reading books be approved for in-coming seniors only and see if the program is successful. Heather Trzepacz suggested that perhaps the parents could purchase the summer reading books. ***Dan Cloutier motioned to table Ginny McKinnon's motion for the 6 stipend positions for next year, seconded by Steven Dutton. Vote: 9-0-0 – Motion Passed***

Ginny McKinnon motioned to add \$15K to the budget to do the work on the softball field at Roy Park and the baseball field at Allard Park, seconded by Heather Trzepacz. Upon further Board discussion, ***Dan Cloutier motioned to table Ginny McKinnon's motion, seconded by Steven Dutton. Vote: 9-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passed***

Dan Cloutier motioned the following reductions, AP Testing for \$17.5K and eliminate \$12.5K for GHS Reading for a total reduction of \$30K, seconded by Reta Chaffee – Vote: 9-0-0 - All in Favor – Motion Passed.

Dan Cloutier motioned to remove the Roy and Allard Park for \$15K motion off the table, second Steven Dutton - Vote: 9-0-0 - All in Favor – Motion Passed.

Dan Cloutier motioned to remove the \$15K stipend motion from the table, seconded by Steven Dutton – Vote: 9-0-0 - All in Favor – Motion Passed.

Dan Cloutier suggested moving forward with the \$250k Capital Reserve Fund warrant article which is tied to the CIP. Brian will review the proposed language at the next board meeting.

Lorry Cloutier motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:49pm, seconded by Heather Trzepacz. Vote: 9-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passed.

OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY LEGALLY COME BEFORE THE MEETING: None

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3II – None

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise F. Morin
Recording Secretary