

SHARON DISTRICT BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021 @ 4:00 PM
VIA GOOGLE MEET
APPROVED MINUTES

This meeting was publicly warned in conformance with H.681 authorizing temporary amendments to Vermont's open meeting law to protect the health and safety of the public, board members, and town employees during the state of emergency declared due to COVID-19.

Links were provided for public participation by videoconference software or by conventional phone.

Present:

School Board: Chantelle Brackett, Samantha Potter, Don Shaw

Staff & Other: Keenan Haley (SES Principal), Jamie Kinnarney (WRVSU Superintendent), Tara Weatherell (WRVSU Business Manager), Raymond Ballou (WRVSU Technology Manager), Nicole Antal (Sharon Recording Secretary), Liz Spriggs (PreK co-Director & Teacher), Lyall Smith (helping the Sharon School Board on the paving project, Director of buildings & grounds at Williston School District VT.), Blaise Laing (PreK co-Director & Teacher).

Public (speaking): Angela Carpenter (SES Parent), Will Davis (SES Parent), Holly Cathcart (SES Parent)

Public present (Non-Speaking): Briana Pronto (SES Parent), Elaine Kearns (Sharon resident), Jennifer Pomerville (Sharon resident), Sara Pfeiffer (SES Parent), Lisanne Velez (SES parent), Andrew Wood (SES Parent), 1 unidentified phone number ending in 77.

1. Call to Order

Don Shaw called the meeting to at 4:01 pm

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

None

3. Discussion Items

3.1 FY20 Audit

Potter asked Weatherell what the Principal's Account is used for. Weatherell explained that that account is not maintained at the SU level, and Haley explained that it was used mainly for the outdoor ed/Farm to School expenses.

3.2 FY 22 Budget - Revised

Weatherell shared new tax sheets with the board, depending on how they want to vote if they want to amend the budget. She shared two scenarios with the board:

- Adding the general para + 0.2 FTE current math interventionist: One tax sheet shared was with adding back \$46,275, it will increase the per-pupil spending to \$18,127.50, the tax

rate would increase from 1.5768 to 1.5922 which is an increase of 0.0154 over the current 0.1352 increase, that Weatherell had shown the board after the state had updated the yield so that results in an increase of .0163.

- If the board wanted to consider adding just the general ed para: \$32,145. Per pupil spending would go to \$18,073.89; the tax rate before CLA would go from 1.5768 to 1.5875, which would be 0.0107 over the current 0.1352.

Shaw asked for a clarification from Kinnarney that his understanding was that these two positions would be covered with other funds. Kinnarney answered that for the Math Interventionist position, that is true that the SU is trying to leverage funds to pay for a position at the SU level. That would be covered via the Recovery Plan.

As far as the support staff position, there is a plan to hire more Special Ed educators, which would mean that if there is a need, the staffing would be covered.

The way Special Ed is funded is about to change in the next few years under MTSS. The way forward will be for the AOE to give a certain amount of money to SUs and districts and for that money to be spent, regardless of IEPs and 504s. Kinnarney said that we would have more flexibility in how we use those funds soon.

Potter shared that she supports reinstating only the general ed para, as it seems from Kinnarney's explanations, that the Math Interventionist will be covered.

Brackett shared that she supports reinstating the general ed para position, especially with the new tax information received in recent days.

Will Davis asked Kinnarney how long the Recovery Funding that would be funding the Math Interventionist position would last, and what happens to the position once the funding stops. Kinnarney answered that it would last for the next two years, but he hopes that the positions would be for the next 3-5 years minimum.

Davis asked if the 0.2 FTE will be at the district level or at the SU level. Kinnarney said to the board and the public that he is committed to having a Math Interventionist at a 0.2 FTE in Sharon.

Brackett asked for confirmation from Haley that the Farm to School and Outdoor program will not be affected by this decision, that what they are discussing is the 0.2 Math Interventionist position. Haley confirmed.

Angie Carpenter wanted to add to Brackett's comment that although we are talking about the 0.2 FTE Math Interventionist, a lot of what this person in this position has been offering at school was a lot of Farm to School and outdoor ed programs, many volunteer hours. Shaw thanked everyone for their comments.

The board voted, see Action/Possible action.

3.3 Paving Project Recommendation

Lyall Smith shared that he was happy with the numbers of bids received but was a bit concerned about the spread of the bids in terms of numbers offered. He said that it is usually a red flag when so many bids have such a big range; the companies might have missed a detail in the lower bids. Lyall interviewed the companies to make sure they have not missed a detail and knew the work scope. One of the companies in the lower bids sent him addresses of projects they have done. He went to see the work, and one in particular,

a condo parking lot, looked perfect with no puddles or depression, which means they did a great job on the subbase. He was very impressed and pleased with the final product, and that was the low bidder in the \$99,000 range.

The board voted, see Action/Possible action.

Weatherell will send the vote and RFP to the bank and start working on paperwork for the next meeting. Kinnarney shared he was pleased with the bids, and that these were lower than the bids the board saw last year.

3.4 FY22 Warning

Weatherell shared a draft of a Warning to the board. Shaw asked for the hours to be updated, 7 am to 7 pm, as in the past those have been the hours. The Board discussed dates for potential Information Meetings prior to May 8th: April 29th and May 7th at 6 pm, via Google Meet.

4. Action/Possible Action

4.1 FY20 Audit

Brackett made a motion to accept the FY20 Audit. Potter seconded. Motion carried.

4.2 FY 22 Budget - possible revision

Potter made a motion to revise the FY22 budget to reinstate the Regular Education Paraprofessional position, this results in an FY22 Expenditure Budget in the amount of \$5,038,941 less local offsetting revenue of \$275,387 resulting in an Act 68 Education Spending amount of \$4,763,554. The FY22 Act 68 Per Pupil Spending is \$18,073.89. Brackett seconded. Motion carried.

4.3 Paving Project Recommendation

Brackett made a motion to accept the bid for the paving project by Landmark Property Maintenance in the amount of \$99,751.43. Potter seconded. Motion carried.

4.4 FY22 Warning

Potter made a motion to accept the FY22 Warning as presented. Brackett seconded. Motion carried.

5. Other

Brackett made a motion to hold two informational meetings on Thursday April 29th and May 6th, both at 6 pm. Potter seconded. Motion carried.

6. Adjourn

Potter made a motion to adjourn at 4:47 pm. Brackett seconded. Motion carried.

