

Board Member Attendees: Scott Burns, Tim Dow, Susan Hallett-Cook, Bill Grimm, Deborah Brown, Marisa Carter, Lisa Tremblay (arrived around 6:50 pm), Greg Husband (Chairperson)

Absent Board Members: Robin Gargano (Vice Chairperson),

Administration: Daniel LeGallo – Superintendent; Amanda Bergquist – Business Administrator

Others: Several Franklin Residents, Cathy Viau (School Board Clerk)

Call to Order by Tim Dow, Board Member, at 5:04 PM.

Greg Husband read a letter from Mayor Merrifield and the Franklin City Council aloud. It shared information from the last Franklin City Council deliberative session. It stated that they have found the amount of \$426,014 and gave the details of where this money came from. The public hearing will be held on July 25, 2016 which was rescheduled from earlier in July.

Greg Husband presented a study of the tax rates from 2009-2015 which included the Town by Town, Local, School, State and County allocations.

It was stated that the City of Franklin has 4-5 vacant employee positions each year.

Discussion and concerns regarding the reduction in the special education budget. Due to new law and changes in DCYF surrounding addiction etc., this cost may go up substantially.

Discussion was held regarding the use of the funds in the trust funds. There is the concern that if this money is taken out now there will not be funds available if a catastrophe happens. Will the City of Franklin help if this happens?

The City of Franklin currently holds \$2 million dollars in surplus funds. The City is not in favor of using these funds to offset the budget for the school.

A new roof is needed at the Middle School.

The district needs to do what will cause the least amount of harm to the students. There are mixed feelings about using some or all of the funds in the trust accounts. There needs to be a mechanism in place to replenish. A new roof is needed at the Middle School. If an emergency occurs in special education, the city would have to fund this. The City funds have increased by \$1.7 million while the school increased by \$170,000.

If the budget issue is not resolved the school risks the city manager imposing her proposed budget. The total of the trusts are \$260,000. Leaving the amount needed of \$245,099.

Consideration of co-curricular needs to be revisited.

There is the option to have the city look at breaking the tax cap. In 2009, the city had an accounting error of over \$400,000 and put out an appropriate tax bill. The City could also use part of the \$2 million surplus. The procedure and process for use of these funds needs to be looked into. Discussion was held regarding what the city is paying for their employee benefits including percentage.

There was some concerns that there are four (4) positions in the city that have not been filled in years.

The public hearing will be held on the 25th.

Discussion was held regarding each department going through their budgets. Residents need to become more involved.

The Superintendent works very diligently with the school board and administration during the budget process. The teachers and students are all key and very important especially during the budget process.

The district still needs to meet all of the requirements to go to college. The concern is that once something is cut it won't be brought back. The people that are doing the most are being driven away. The district is already barely functioning with less than the minimum. The district already does not look good within the cities and towns within the state.

Discussion was held regarding what a tax cap is and how it came about as well as how it can be changed.

In the future, the budget process will begin earlier in the year with regular meetings with the city of Franklin.

It was stated that the communities that don't fully fund education drive people out. It is time for a change.

Discussion was held regarding the budget process and proposed changes to the process.

It is concerning that in the age of technology we are very much lacking. Teachers are having to do "Go Fund Me" pages for supplies.

There needs to be a clear strategy and vision for the future.

Discussion and concerns were shared regarding how the city allocates the funds between the City and School.

Enrollment is dropping everywhere. Everyone needs to be creative with funds.

Franklin is one of the least compensated districts in the state.

Jen Weaver read aloud a letter from another teacher. Parents and Teachers already use their money for so much to fund the supplies yet some parents can barely buy food.

It was stated that we build and suffer by our own reputation.

Non-Public Session in Accordance with RSA 91A:3, paragraph IIa personnel

MOTION: Deborah Brown moved to go into Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91A:3, paragraph IIa (Personnel) at 6:18 pm, seconded by Bill Grimm.

Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion Carried – Unanimous

Discussion was held regarding personnel.

MOTION: Tim Dow moved to come out of Non-Public Session at 6:53 pm, seconded by Deborah Brown.

Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

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Motion Carried – Unanimous

MOTION: Tim Dow moved to seal the non-public minutes of this meeting for five years, seconded by Deborah Brown.

Motion Carried - Unanimous

MOTION: Tim Dow moved to add an addendum as follows: “In the event that the Superintendent decides not to renew this contract, for the 2017-18 school year; for reasons other than misconduct by the Professional Employee, the Professional Employee will be offered a contract as a teacher provided that there is a vacant position for which she has the required credential, for one year only. This agreement will expire at the end of the 2016-17 school year.” to an existing administrator’s contract, seconded by Susan Hallett- Cook.

Motion Carried – Unanimous

MOTION: Tim Dow moved to authorize the use of the \$160,000 from the Special Education Trust Fund towards the Franklin School District Budget, seconded by Bill Grimm.

Motion Carried – Unanimous

MOTION: Scott Burns move to authorize the use of the \$100,000 from the Capital Improvement Buildings Reserves, seconded by Tim Dow.

Deborah Brown did express her view that she does not agree with using any of these funds.

Motion Carried – Unanimous

MOTION: Deborah Brown moved to give the Superintendent authority to hire staff as needed by priority according to the budget, seconded by Lisa Tremblay.

Motion Carried – Unanimous

Other topics discussed included: sports, co-curricular, afterschool offerings, more student mentors, strive for a better reputation and need to focus on the accomplishments within the school district and city.

Adjournment

MOTION: Tim Dow moved to adjourn at 7:15 pm, seconded by Bill Grimm.

Motion Carried – Unanimously