

TROY SCHOOL
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING (REGULAR)
Troy School
Thursday, January 4, 2018

APPROVED MINUTES

I. Gaston called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited to open the meeting.

Gaston then called for any additions or adjustments to the agenda:

- Gaston made the following adjustment: Leanne Desjardins, Director of Special Education, would not attend the meeting due to weather and deteriorating road/driving conditions.

II. Approve the minutes of December 7, 2017 (*Attachment A*):

Gaston recommended the following edits be made:

- Correct format – remove empty line at agenda item IV, B.
- Correct statement at agenda item IV, C, to read 'The account with budgeted copier lease expenses was identified as 01-100-1100-5400-00-209-10, Purchase Property Services – Elementary (from November 2017 Over / Under Report).'
- Correct format - delete empty bullet at agenda item IV, C.

Motion to approve minutes of December 7, 2017, as amended. G BATHALON/**APPROVED**.

III. Public Comments, Communication with Parents/Staff/Citizens: Gaston welcomed those in attendance.

Ms. Andrea Machado requested time to bring the following concerns to the Board's attention:

- A specific incident (details omitted) was referred to Chris for follow-up (an agreed upon date and time was identified).
- Concern was raised that students (and parents) were unsure who, specifically, was designated to hold a student's medication when away from Troy School. Specifically, clarification was asked for how a student has access to their rescue inhaler while skiing/snowboarding at Jay Peak. Chris clarified that student's medications were kept at the State Side Lodge (and not held by chaperones). John clarified that a student could carry his/her own rescue inhaler provided that a physician's note, to that effect, was obtained (as detailed in the revised 'Student Mediation' policy – see agenda item IX, A, 2).

IV. Program Presentation

[*AGENDA ADJUSTMENT*]: the SPED Program Presentation by Leanne Desjardins, Director of Special Education, was postponed to a later Board meeting.

V. Financial Report

Action:

A. Approve warrants:

Motion to approve warrants totaling \$283,891.38. G. BATHALON/**APPROVED**

B. Approve December 2017 Financial Report. (*Attachment B*)

- Glenn provided an overview noting that there was a net balance of \$121,522.53 remaining in the SFY 2018 budget.
- A \$9,800.00 fund transfer from 'Purchased Property Services – Elementary' (01-100-1100-5400-00-209-10) to 'Copier Lease' (01-100-2230-5400-00-209-10) was made. The 'Copier Lease' account now reflects current account status.

- Gaston asked for clarification regarding Food Service Revenues and Expenditures as the program is overspent by \$65,145.28. Stressing this was an important program, he asked whether the Board would need to cover the deficit?
 - Chris explained that the Food Service net balance was not current in that reimbursements lagged behind other Troy School revenues.
 - Glenn indicated that the school meal program incurs expenses that are not reimbursable while participating under/in the Community Eligibility Provision/Program (all students receive breakfast and lunch at no charge). The program is self-sufficient (break even) mostly with grants from outside sources.
 - Chris affirmed that collection of income data from individual families is very near 100%. Important as USDA reimbursement is based on the number of students from low income families.

Motion to approve the December 2017 Financial Report. G. BATHALON/**APPROVED**

C. Over Under Report (not available for review)

D. Approve FY 2019 Budget (*Attachment C*)

- Glenn provided handouts of the proposed FY2019 Budget and estimated effect on tax rates. Chris provided an information paper detailing key budget considerations.
- Chris detailed how the FY 2019 9.4 cent tax increase, predicted by the Vermont Joint Fiscal Office, would be applied. Of note is that Troy School District tax rates will increase – even before submission of a school budget.
- Although the proposed FY 2019 budget is 0.49% less than the FY 2018 budget, the combination of a projected loss of students (i.e., 7.7 students) and revenues yields a higher per pupil cost than FY 2018.
- Gaston cited per pupil spending data for SFY 2017 published by the Vermont Agency of Education. Specifically, Troy School was ranked 71 (of 88 school districts) for budgeted per equalized pupil cost within a group of similar sized schools. Most importantly, Troy School had a state-rank of 208 (of 256 school districts) for education spending per equalized pupil. Troy School is not a high spending school district such that cuts will negatively impact student learning.
- Chris suggested that the freeze on capital improvements continue as a necessary measure to cover revenue losses and/or budget deficits. A point that Cliff emphasized as measures to economize where possible are needed – given the current (and predicted) fiscal challenges.
- Carol asked if the CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) hurt or help with local tax rates? Glenn indicated that the CLA did not necessarily help to reduce local tax rates. Rather, the CLA had a slight affect in increasing the tax rates.
- Gaston asked if the Troy School achieved the estimated savings with implementation of the new health care plans (at least to cover the loss of state revenue recaptured from Troy School by the state). In short, Glenn indicated that the savings were not realized and represented a loss of revenue to the school. This was due, in part, to projections being based on health insurance policies with an 80:20 split. Briefly, the most recent negotiations with the Vermont-NEA (National Education Association) yielded a higher proportion of insurance costs be paid by the NCSU (as compared to the state-projected 80%).
- The projected SFY 2019 budget would increase the total (by 7.71%) and homestead (by 7.92%) tax rates. A bottom line that represents Troy School needs but, regrettably, adds to the noted increases in state taxes.

MOTION to approve the FY 2019 Troy Town School District budget as presented.

FORSTER/APPROVED.

E. Approve School District Reports due January 22, 2018 (Troy Town Clerk).

- Gaston clarified that this agenda item refers specifically to the required annual report of the Board to members of the Troy School District. Because the report is written by the Chair ('on behalf of the Troy School Board') Board action is not required.

VI. Principal's Report (*Attachment D*)

- Chris reviewed key points highlighting that Ms. Daigneault passed all state requirements to drive a school bus and began driving for Troy School on December 20 (just prior to the Holiday break). Chris was updating bus route pick up and drop off times.
- Approximately 280 meals were served at the Holiday Community Dinner. The Board acknowledged the high attendance as evidence for continued strong community support for Troy School. The Board acknowledged the work of Mary Lou and her dedicated staff in organizing, preparing, and serving what has become a Holiday tradition for Troy School.
- Further, the Holiday Concert was well attended. The Board acknowledged Mr. Hughes' efforts as Troy School students were well rehearsed and prepared.
- Gaston clarified that the Principal's Report, being a report, did not need Board approval (as was past practice).

VII. Superintendent's Report

- John indicated that the NCSU Full Board approved the NCSU's Alternative Governance Plan (ACT 46) at the December 21 meeting. The plan was hand-delivered (by John) to the Agency of Education on December 27.
- The FY 2019 NCSU budget was also approved by the NCSU Full Board at the December 21 meeting.

VIII. Unfinished/New Business

Discussion/Action:

A. Consider Request concerning Policy F.17 Non-Resident Student

- Gaston provided the Board with a copy of the request to allow a student to continue attending Troy School even though the family no longer resides in Troy.
- Chris provided detail related to the student's attendance at Troy School.
- John provided insight on NCSU Policy F.17 and NCSU-wide considerations when making a determination.

MOTION to deny the request to allow an out of School District student to attend Troy School and that transfer be made to new School District not later than February 1, 2018.

G. BATHALON/APPROVED

B. Approve Snow Plowing and Sanding Contract

- Chris informed the Board that International Landscaping had agreed to plow snow and sand at the rate of \$165.00 per visit while the Board sought proposals for this service.
- Chris recommended that in lieu of seeking proposals that the Board approve a contract with International Landscaping to plow snow (\$165.00 per visit) and sand the driveway and parking lots (\$165.00 per visit).

MOTION to approve a contract with International Landscaping to plow snow (\$165.00 per visit) and sand the driveway and parking lots (\$165.00 per visit). **FORSTER/APPROVED**

C. Approve NCSU Act 46 Alternative Governance Structure Proposal

MOTION to approve the NCSU Act 46 Alternative Governance Structure Proposal.

G. BATHALON/APPROVED

IX. Other Business

Action:

- ##### A. Adopt the Following Revised NCSU Common Board Policies*:

1. G.11, Responsible Use of Personal and District Devices for Network & Internet Use
2. J.4, Student Medication

Motion to adopt NCSU common board policies G.11 and J.4. G. BATHALON/**APPROVED**

*Policies being reviewed can be found at <http://www.ncsuvt.org/ncsu-full-board/policies-being-reviewed>

X. Agenda Items/Date for Next Board Meeting

February 1, 2018:

- Program Presentation: John to discuss procedure to identify needed repairs and building walk thru.
- Draft trifold (with cost estimates) for mailing to Troy School District residents ahead of the March Annual Meeting.
- Expected Executive Session for negotiations update.

XI. Executive Session: N/A – executive session not requested or required.

XII. Adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gaston P. Bathalon

Present

Gaston Bathalon, Chair
Allyson Bathalon
Cliff Forster

In Attendance:

Administration:

John A. Castle, Superintendent of Schools
Glenn Hankinson, Director of Business and Finance
Chris Young, Troy School Principal

Community/Staff:

Andrea Machado