

BOARD OF EDUCATION
HIGHLIGHTS of MEETING HELD – April 12, 2016
REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: at 7:00 P.M. at Franklin Academy High School, Huskie Lane, Malone

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wayne Rogers, Arlie Collins, Carol Hunter, Edward Lockwood, Christine Crossman-Dumas, Philip Hans, Donna Kissane, David LaPlant, Stephen J. Dupree

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

MEMBERS TARDY: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Timothy P. Whipple, District Clerk/Business Administrator, Jerry Griffin, Superintendent, Brandon Pelkey, F.A. Building Principal, Nathaniel Hathaway, Melissa Brown, Shelley Mulverhill, Chad Lawrence, Scott Wolfe, Jim Willis, Judy Hill, Erin O’Grady-Parent and E.J. Conzola, (Media).

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Rogers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: was entered into at 7:01 P.M for the purpose of discussing personnel matters as they relate to specific individuals and litigation matters.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION: at 7:32 P.M.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

AGENDA for 4/12/16 was adopted.

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting held 3/22/16 were approved as presented.

TREASURER’S REPORT: for the period ending 2/29/16 was accepted as presented.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION FOR SCHEDULE “A” LEGAL ACTION: was approved after revision.

CHANGE ORDER-NATURAL GAS CONVERSION PROJECT: was approved for K & L Plumbing & Heating, Inc. for a credit in the amount of \$21,901.

CHANGE ORDERS/ALLOWANCE DISBURSEMENTS FOR CAPITAL PROJECT: were approved as follows: CO #02-010 for Northland Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$-2,800 (credit); CO #02-011 for Northland Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$-1,700 (credit); AD #02-001 for Northland Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$-2,860 (credit); AD #02-002 for Northland Associates, Inc. Inc. in the amount of \$-3,826 (credit).

ADDITIONAL MATTERS:

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE: Scott Wolfe, Jim Willis and Judy Hill, Construction Management representatives from CS Arch updated the board on the Transportation Facility project. With slight adjustments, administration will begin to move into their new offices during the week of April 25th. A partial certificate of occupancy will be issued due to some toilet rooms not completed (wall tile). There are other bathroom facilities in the building that will be available, allowing staff to occupy portions of the new space. Site work will re-initiate later this week. Progress on Harison Gym has been fruitful, with demolition of interior spaces being mostly complete. Windows are currently in the process of being removed. Financially the project is within budget due to many value engineered savings that have occurred thus far.

BOARD REPORTS: Mrs. Kissane reported that she attended Dr. Bill Daggett’s presentation to school board members on April 7th. She thought his message that schools need to change with the times was consistent with what Malone CSD was trying to do, especially in the area of technology.

BOARD REPORTS Cont'd: Mrs. Crossman-Dumas commented that she also attended the event and agreed that schools need to evolve over time, but that she felt his message was somewhat contradictory. Mr. Rogers added that Dr. Daggett's points dovetail with what he heard at the National School Board Conference in Boston, MA this past weekend. Mr. Rogers said that schools are coming from the No Child Left Behind era, where the focus was college graduation. Unfortunately, this meant many trade programs across the county were discontinued, which in his opinion, those programs should have expanded and flourished. He mentioned that there is evidence that standardized testing has shown to be contrary to our goals as a district and nation, and we need to be preparing students for realistic post graduate work experiences, which may not include college.

Ms. Hunter reported that she and Mrs. Kissane attended the Northern Borders P-Tech presentation at North County Community College, which is a partnership between NCCC, FEH BOCES, Malone CSD, Salmon River CSD and Brushton-Moira CSD. Ms. Hunter was impressed and optimistic about the initiative, which focuses on project-based learning. Students will leave the program with a two-year college degree.

BUDGET DISCUSSION: Mr. Whipple reviewed with Board members the proposed final budget. The district received final state aid allocations for 16-17 based on the passage of the NYS budget as adopted by the legislature. Foundation aid increased by an additional \$792,561 over what the Governor first proposed. Overall, foundation aid increased \$1,097,069 compared to 15-16 foundation aid. All other aid categories stayed the same from the original projections. Expenditures are set at \$50,707,350, an increase of \$1,945,940, or 3.99%. Most of the increase is attributable to debt service increases, renovations for the two auditoriums, BOCES costs, and salary increases for new staff. The tax levy is estimated to be \$13,220,892, an increase of \$98,834, or .75%. This is below the allowable tax levy increase per the tax cap calculation of 1.655%. Mr. Whipple explained that the board, should they approve the budget, were not voting on the tax levy increase, only total appropriations (expenditures) for the 2016-2017 school year. The tax levy is actually set in August by the Board of Education when equalization rates become final and assessed values for each town in have been finalized. Mr. Griffin reviewed the new and restored programs that he is recommending as part of the 2016-2017 budget. Overall, approximately \$450,000 in new programs and facility improvements have been included. Three additional teaching positions, Special Education, Biology and French were included in the budget. Additional speech services were included and will be purchased through FEH BOCES. Mr. Griffin explained that the district continues to provide a wide variety of co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for students, and to that end, he is proud to recommend a new modified volleyball program for middle school girls. Renovations to the Middle School and Franklin Academy auditoriums are also included in the budget, which include replacement of seats at the Middle School, new sound/light boards at both locations, as well as stage improvements and wall painting. GPS devices for school buses were also included in the budget, which will be aidable by the state.

Mr. Collins asked about the possibility of aid being withheld next year. Mr. Rogers stated that a proposal to delink aid increases to the APPR plan was not approved in the final NYS budget. Mr. Griffin commented that the district must come to an agreement with the Malone Administrators and the Malone Federation of Teachers over a final APPR plan, which also has to be approved by the State Education Department. Mr. Whipple commented that state aid could be withheld if no agreement was in place, and would be more than \$2.5 million. Mr. Griffin said the district was close to an agreement with the Malone Administrators and there was a preliminary meeting with the Malone Federation of Teachers in the near future. Mr. Rogers expected there to be agreements with both units before the deadline.

CONSENT AGENDA: for **PERSONNEL MATTERS** was approved as follows:

Support Staff

SUBSTITUTES: were made to Louise Pirrotta (Bus Driver) and Darrin Spinner (Cleaner), effective 4/13/16.

RESIGNATIONS: were made to Lee Mandigo (Bus Driver), effective 3/31/16, Jason Black (Teaching Assistant), effective 4/1/16 and Nicole Strange (Teacher Aide), effective 4/18/16.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ACTION:

2016-2017 BUDGET: in the amount of \$50,707,350 was adopted as presented (.75% increase from 2015-2016).

CSE/CPSE RECOMMENDATIONS: were approved as presented.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:45 P.M.
Timothy P. Whipple
District Clerk/Board of Education
4/12/16