

**FALL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Monday, December 10, 2007**

Chair Shaw called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM in the Fall Mountain Regional High School Library. In attendance were Andy Collins, Jim Elsesser, Ken Hart, Rob Pearson, and Chas Street. Debra Livingston, Brendan Minnihan, and Steve Varone were also present. Cheryl Cavanaugh joined the meeting at 6:34 PM.

Chair Shaw recognized Tom Ronning who announced that Kari Makinen and Allison Stoddard Gruber were receiving Board Honors for being named "Commended Students" in the 2007 National Merit Scholarship Program. Ms. Makinen was congratulated by Board members and received a Certificate of Excellence from Mr. Ronning. In addition, Michelle Heath, FMRHS Girls Varsity Volleyball Coach, received Board Honors for being named New Hampshire Volleyball Coach of the Year.

Athletic Director Stan Jurkoic announced Board Honors were being given to Hannah Bujnevcié for being named to the NH State Volleyball Team and Kristy Zurmuhlen, named an All-American in Soccer for the State of New Hampshire.

Motion: (Cavanaugh/Collins) to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2007 Joint Session as presented. Passed Unanimously.

Motion: (Collins/ Cavanaugh) to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2007 Public Session as presented. Passed Unanimously.

Motion: (Collins/Street) to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2007 Non-Public Session as presented. Passed Unanimously.

Old Business:

Mr. Howland reported the Quiz Bowl Team had gone 9/1 in competition; the Hospitality Club had made holiday cards for soldiers at Walter Reed Hospital; NHS students had written letters from Santa; Progress Reports would go home on Friday; the Drama Club's production of *Much Ado About Nothing* would be performed this coming weekend; and teachers raised \$400 selling snacks at Sunday's Holiday Concert.

Mr. Ronning mentioned a meeting held after the Football Banquet with players, parents, and interested citizens who decided FMRHS would remain in Divisional Football and not have an independent schedule.

Chair Shaw reported that the Budget Committee had met earlier in the day and approved the administration's Proposed FY09 Budget.

Reports of Administrators:

Superintendent Livingston mentioned she had attended the JROTC Dinner at the Charlestown VFW and complemented the JROTC for the manner in which students conducted themselves. The JROTC raised \$1400 for their program through this event. In addition, Dr. Livingston attended the Winter Concert held at the high school on December 9th and commented that the number of participants was exceptional and the concert outstanding.

New Business:

On motion made and seconded, Chair Shaw opened the floor to a discussion of the proposed FY09 budget.

Jean Kobeski (Walpole) read a letter to the Board from the Walpole Site-Based Committee asking that the K-8 Media Generalist position, not included in next year's budget, be restored. Additionally several staff and community members spoke in favor of retaining that position.

Mr. Jacobs reported it would cost an additional \$21,000 from Walpole to retain that position. Ms. Southard-Stevens indicated the Charlestown Attendance Area could not make any further reductions in its portion of the budget to fund that position. Mr. Ronning offered to try and find some additional funds from the high school budget.

Ms. Cavanaugh asked what, if any, effect the loss of this position would have on accreditation and was told it would take several years before accreditation would be affected.

Motion: (Hart/Street) to approve Proposed FY09 Budget as presented and to ask the administration to revisit the K-8 Media Generalist position. Passed- Unanimously.

Mr. Varone reviewed the draft of the District Warrant.

Article 1 Shall the school district raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$25,412,310? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$25,023,395, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the district or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. The School Board would recommend this article.

Article 2: To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate an amount not to exceed \$XXX, 000 for renovation of the High School locker rooms, including the use of an adjacent classroom to enlarge the boys' locker room and the installation of a lift for handicap accessibility to the girls' locker room; and to authorize the withdrawal of this amount from the High School Capital Reserve Fund. The Board decided they would wait for a cost estimate before voting on this article.

Article 3: To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate \$26,000 to be added to the Alstead Elementary Schools Capital Reserve Fund established in 2006. These funds will be held by the Alstead Trustees of Trust Funds and no withdrawals shall be made without consent of the voters.

Article 4: To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,000 to be added to the Acworth Elementary School Capital Reserve Fund established in 2006. These funds will be held by the Acworth Trustees of Trust Funds and no withdrawals shall be made without consent of the voters.

Article 5: To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000 to be added to the Langdon Elementary School Capital Reserve Fund established in 2006. These funds will be held by the Langdon Trustees of Trust Funds and no withdrawals shall be made without consent of the voters

Article 6: To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate \$44,000 to be added to the Charlestown Elementary Schools Capital Reserve Fund established in 2006. These funds will be held by the Charlestown Trustees of Trust Funds and no withdrawals shall be made without consent of the voters.

Article 7: To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate \$30,000 to be added to the Walpole Elementary Schools Capital Reserve Fund established in 2006. These funds will be held by the Walpole Trustees of Trust Funds and no withdrawals shall be made without consent of the voters.

Motion: (Elsesser/Street) to recommend Articles 3-7. Passed- Unanimously.

Article 8: To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate \$30,000 to purchase fifteen "Smart Boards" for installation at the High School.

Superintendent Livingston informed Board members that although the District wanted to continue with the Technology Plan, in light of other budget reductions, the administration had reduced the number of SmartBoards in this article from 30 to 15.

Motion: (Street/Cavanaugh) to recommend Article 8. Passed- Unanimously.

Article 9: To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate \$XX,000 to crown and sod the High School football/soccer field. The Board decided to wait for a cost estimate before voting on this article.

Article 10: To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate, solely from any year-end unreserved general fund balance, up to \$500,000 to be placed in the High School Capital Reserve Fund. These funds are held by Charlestown Trustees of Trust Funds and no withdrawals shall be made without consent of the voters.

Motion: Street/Elsesser) to recommend Article 10. Passed- Unanimously.

Chair Shaw reported the Budget Committee had suggested setting aside money to fund sick leave buy-backs and early retirements and asked if the administration had considered placing that on the Warrant.

Mr. Varone indicated that five reserve funds specific to those costs could be set up. Responding to a question from Mr. Collins, he went on to say the DRA would most likely not allow money for those expenses to be drawn out of the five capital reserve funds already established.

Chair Shaw asked administration why there was no article dealing with Special Education reserve funds and was informed that there was a considerable amount in that reserve fund at present, and as it was only used when SPED expenditures exceeded Medicaid reimbursements, it was felt there would be little risk in not placing money into that fund next year.

Motion: (Street/Pearson) to approve the use of a District school bus for Walpole PTG's annual ski program, January 6 and 27, February 3, 10, 1n3 24, and March 2. Passed-Unanimously.

FMRHS Senior Class President Megan McPherson and Senior Class Advisor Lisa Hultgren addressed the Board and outlined plans for the annual Senior Class Trip in June of 2008.

Motion: (Street/Pearson) to approve a request by the FMRHS Senior Class for an overnight trip to Lake George in June 2008. Passed-Unanimously.

Motion: (Street/Cavanaugh) to approve student participation in the following Sunday events:
12/16/2007, the Cross Country Ski Team to Macintyre Ski Area, Manchester, NH
12/16/2007, the Indoor Track Team to Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
1/20/2008, the Indoor Track Team to UNH, Durham, NH
1/27/2008, the Indoor Track Team to UNH, Durham, NH
2/3/2008, the Indoor Track Team to Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
2/10/2008, the Indoor Track Team to Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

Passed- Unanimously.

Motion: (Elsesser/Collins) to approve unpaid leaves of absence for **Mike Leonard**, Special Education Aide, FMRHS, December 20-21, 2007; and **Laurie Luther-Houghton**, Foreign Language Teacher, FMRHS, 12 weeks leave for the adoption of a child commencing sometime in Mid-December 2008. Passed- Unanimously.

Motion: (Elsesser/Street) to approve the resignations of **Amanda Egan**, Special Education Teacher, VASE Collaborative, effective 1/31/2008; and **Douglas Clark**, Custodian, Vilas School, effective 11/26/2007. Passed- Unanimously.

Motion: (Elsesser/Cavanaugh) to approve contract offers for **Jamie Champney**, Special Education Aide, Alstead Primary School, effective 12/10/2007; and **Susan Weinert**, School-to-Work Coordinator, FMRHS, effective 12/10/2007. Passed-Unanimously.

Motion: (Hart/Elsesser) to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Passed Unanimously.

11/30/2007	Voucher	\$165,445.16
12/3/2007	Voucher	114.49
12/7/2007	Voucher	373,435.88
12/7/2007	Dental Claims	2,535.75
12/7/2007	Dental Claims	8,920.45
12/7/2007	Dental Claims	232.40
12/10/2007	Payroll	630,305.78

Other:

Mr. Collins asked if there was any Board interest in discussing a bond issue to cover the cost of some of the large renovations at the high school in FY10. Mr. Ronning responded that he was in the process of revising the curriculum which would drive the renovations of the vocational wing so a bond issue would be premature.

Motion: (Elsesser/Cavanaugh) to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (a)(c).

On an affirmative roll call vote, entered non-public session at 8:07 PM.

Exited non-public session at 8:27 PM.

Board members discussed the proposal to extend the high school driveway and move and rebuild the Memorial Apple Orchard in a triangular land parcel near the driveway.

Chair Shaw adjourned the meeting without objection at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda M. Pappas,
Board Clerk