

BROOKLINE-NEWFANE SCHOOL BOARD EMERGENCY MEETING

Tuesday, January 11, 2011
6:00 PM at *NewBrook Elementary School*

Draft Minutes

Present: Lee Anne Parker, Dan Seiden, April Wellman, Brookline; Kim Colligan, Kim Friedman, Ken McFadden, Pam Meihak, Brandy Pickering, Newfane (Board members); Bruce Garrow, NewBrook Principal; Frank Rucker, WCSU Chief Financial Officer; Amy Jo Cable, recorder.

- I. **Call to order and flow chart review:** Kim Friedman called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and distributed a flow chart which outlined recent tax and small school grant information from the *Department of Education* and possible impacts that new information could have on the proposed FY12 Budget for the *NewBrook Elementary School*.
- II. **Staff & Community Input:** Samantha Bovat, WCSU Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/Receptionist; Scott Bovat, Emily Bullock, WCSU Guidance; Meghan Keyes, NewBrook Special Education instructor; Emily Long, Leland & Gray UHS Board member; Molly Wilson, NewBrook Special Education instructor. Introductions were made.
- III. **Discussion of flow chart and consideration of possible changes to FY12 Budget:** Following the flow chart Kim Friedman had presented, Frank Rucker discussed the recent information he had from the state of Vermont pertaining to property tax rate, small school grants and Act 82.
 - Frank explained that the state of Vermont will implement a statewide property tax rate increase of 2%.
 - Frank also advised that the small school grant for the *Newfane School District* would be 10 thousand dollars less than he had anticipated.
 - Frank discussed Act 82 and included an explanation of the “two vote” rule, where town members would vote on a proposed school budget and then would need to vote again to confirm or change the results of the first vote. Frank explained that the purpose of the two votes was to confirm that town members were in full support of the budget they approved. Kim Friedman further explained that the Brookline and Newfane School Districts are not obligated to meet the requirements of Act 82 at this time, since both school districts did not presently meet the requirements which would mandate the “two vote” rule.
- IV. **Discussion of Federal Jobs Bill funding and capital fund:**
 - Frank Rucker discussed the Federal Jobs Bill and possible funding the Brookline and Newfane School Districts may receive from that source and

how that would affect Brookline and Newfane's property tax rate when applied to the proposed FY12 Budget.

- Bruce Garrow suggested that Board members consider cutting the allotment for computer equipment in the proposed FY12 Budget for the *NewBrook School* from 22 thousand dollars to 11 thousand dollars.
- Bruce also suggested that Board members consider reducing the capital fund in the proposed FY12 NewBrook School budget. Bruce explained that purchasing the two new boilers would save money in fuel oil, but perhaps purchasing the new windows for the school could wait until sometime in the future. Both of Bruce's suggestions were offered because of the new property tax rate increase statewide and the decreased small school grant for the *Newfane School District*.
- Frank Rucker explained to Board members how Bruce's suggestions (noted above) would affect the property tax rate in the town of Brookline and Newfane.

Kim Friedman reminded Board members that the budget which was adopted on 12/20/2010 by the Board was based on hard numbers with no speculation and depending on the *Federal Jobs Bill* funding would be speculative. Frank Rucker read a statement regarding the *Federal Jobs Bill* funding from Brad James he had received that day which explained how the funding could be used by a school district. Frank advised that per that information from Brad James, the *Federal Jobs Bill* funding received by Brookline and Newfane School Districts could be used as a "bridge for education spending" which included re-hiring staff or retaining school staff. Ken McFadden moved that the Board decrease expenditures by 26 thousand dollars from the budget adopted on 12/20/2010 and increase revenues by 23 thousand to reflect anticipated funds from the Federal Jobs Bill, for a total expenditure of \$1,969,170. Lee Anne Parker gave her second. Motion passed by consensus.

V. Warnings and Joint Board contract: Frank briefly discussed the warnings and contract that required Board members' signatures. Frank also explained legal counsel from Robert M. Fisher of *Fisher & Fisher Law Offices* regarding budget adoption for *NewBrook School* pursuant to Joint Contract. Board members signed the following documents:

- *Newfane School District 2011 Annual Meeting Warning.*
- *Brookline School District 2011 Annual Meeting Warning.*
- *Brookline School District and Newfane School District and Brookline-Newfane Joint School Board 2011 Annual Meeting Warning.*
- *Joint School Board Agreement Between the Brookline and Newfane School Districts.*

TASK: Kim Colligan will contact Shannon at the *Newfane Town Office* regarding the start time of the *Newfane School District 2011 Annual Meeting*.

TICKLER: Re-visit compensation of Newfane School Board officers for next year's budget.

VI. Next Meeting: The Board's next meeting would be Thursday, January 20, 2011 at 6:30 PM at *NewBrook Elementary School*.

ADJOURN: Kim Friedman moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ken McFadden gave his second. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.