

**CANDIA SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023
HENRY W. MOORE SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**

These minutes have been approved.

Board Chair, Matt Woodrow opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Board members, Dana Buckley, Stephanie Helmig, Mark Chalbeck, and Kristina Ickes. Also in attendance was Principal Becky Wing, Director of Student Services Stacey Eaton, Superintendent William (Bill) Rearick, and Business Administrator, Cory Izbicki.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mark Chalbeck led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROOF OF POSTING

Bill Rearick provided proof of posting.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Resident Carol Batchelder (Raymond Rd.) said she supports Becky Wing's proposal for a social worker position on the Henry W. Moore School staff. She said other staff is supportive of this as well and said some were planning on emailing the Board with their thoughts.

FINANCIAL

2024/2025 Budget

Bill Rearick explained the budget process and the change in the budget since the Board last met. He said health and dental actuals came in lower than anticipated, so there is a savings of \$79,196 from that. Pinkerton's tuition rates have not come in, so Bill said that budget line may still possibly decrease. Per the Board's request, Bill Rearick provided the Board with stipend amounts for each of the SAU #15 Boards.

Referring to the Board's goals, Bill notified the Board that the cost to compensate teachers for time outside of their contract would be \$25,331. Bill reminded the Board that the warrant will also have increases for CESPAs in the amount of \$38,524 and CEA over two years in the amount of \$97,211.00.

Motion by Dana Buckley, seconded by Matt Woodrow, to increase the budget for School Board member stipends to match Hooksett's (\$1,500 member \$1,650 chair), and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Stephanie Helmig, seconded by Matt Woodrow, to reallocate \$25,331 from the maintenance budget to cover after hours for teachers. With Mark Chalbeck opposed, all others in favor, the motion carried. Mark Chalbeck stated his reasons for voting no, if the budget committee wants to cut, let them do so, after which time the Board may move money from different lines as needed.

Motion by Stephanie Helmig, seconded by Mark Chalbeck, to reallocate \$25,331 from after hours for teachers, into the maintenance line and to add \$25,331 for after school teachers into the budget, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Dana Buckley, seconded by Matt Woodrow, to remove the social worker position from the budget. Considerable discussion ensued. Dana said he didn't feel it was needed for such a small district and other local districts don't have this position. Stephanie Helmig stated that attendance, social issues and the increasing number of 504 Plans are not always in the wheelhouse of the school counselor. Mark Chalbeck said it seemed like more of an SAU-wide position. Matt Woodrow said this position would help staff, but agreed that it would be better as an SAU employee. Dana Buckley asked if each district could determine the scope of work by district if it became an SAU position. Bill Rearick said they could. Kristina Ickes said schools are experience student's difficult behavioral challenges and said she understands the impact on teachers and staff. Bill Rearick explained how the other SAU #15 districts are dealing with budgets and said he didn't want to do anything that might jeopardize current staffing levels. Becky Wing said she would love to see the position added, but agreed with Mr. Rearick in not wanting to jeopardize current staffing.

The motion was voted on. With Stephanie Helmig voting no, all others in favor, the motion carried. The Board said they will educate the budget committee on the social worker position for future consideration.

Discussion ensued relative to continuing to fund the Reading Interventionist position. ESSER grant funds only funded the position for one year.

Motion by Dana Buckley, seconded by Matt Woodrow, to add \$109,850 to the budget to continue to support the Reading Interventionist position, and the motion carried unanimously

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Resident Jason Guston (Crowley Rd.) stated that it appears that the Board sees the need for a social worker and to consider it as an SAU position. He said the Board would be ill–advised in not moving forward on the position.

Carol Batchelder said even if this is pushed off to a later date, it should be a Board goal in future agendas. There is a need now and the Board needs to figure something out.

Motion by Kristina Ickes, seconded by Dana Buckley, to approve the proposed budget in the amount of \$10,673,097.43 and to also approve the two warrant articles as written, and the motion carried unanimously. It was the consensus of the Board to allow the budget number to be decreased as appropriate when the Pinkerton tuition rates are confirmed.

Stephanie Helmig stated that the budget committee will be meeting on November 20 and the Board will meet with the budget committee on November 29, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Stephanie and Kristina will form a subcommittee to create a survey for staff to gather their thoughts on a school psychologist position.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 Section II

Motion by Matt Woodrow, seconded by Mark Chalbeck, at 6:50 p.m. to enter into a non-public meeting RSA 91-A:3 Section II a. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

The Board resumed their public meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Motion by Matt Woodrow, seconded by Stephanie Helmig, to seal the non-public minutes in perpetuity, and the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Matt Woodrow, seconded by Dana Buckley to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m., and the motion carried unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled Candia School Board Meeting will be on December 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Henry W. Moore School Media Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca McCarthy
Recording Secretary