

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING  
JACKSON SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Whitney Community Center  
March 8, 2012**

**COPY**

The Annual Meeting of the Jackson School District was held at the Whitney Community Center on March 8, 2012. Moderator, Tim Scott, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were twenty-seven members of the general public present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Moderator called for a motion to dispense with the reading of the warrant in its entirety, the intent being to read each article as it is being presented. **Motion was made, seconded and carried, that the Moderator dispense with the reading of the warrant in its entirety.**

ARTICLE 1. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two million, four hundred nine thousand, three hundred and twenty dollars (\$2,409,320) for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for school district officials and agents, and for the payment of the statutory obligations of the District. **Motion was made, and seconded, to approve Article 1 as written.**

Dr. Carl Nelson, Superintendent, reviewed the highlights of the proposed 2012-2013 school budget. There is an overall 7% decrease of \$180,483 from last year's budget resulting in a lower tax rate for Jackson residents. Dr. Nelson highlighted the following budget line items: health insurance was down 5.3% from last year; salaries are down approximately \$20,000 as a result of unneeded ESOL services; performance based bonuses of \$33,704 were included; retirement funds increased by 2%; contingency funds to cover NH retirement rate decreased by \$13,989. Student tuition contributions to the Middle School and High School decreased, as did special education tuition. Building and grounds maintenance budget increased, as did fuel costs for buses, by approximately \$3000, but fuel rates are locked in for the next year. A student advocate for Jackson students at Kennett High School is available a half day a week costing \$8670 in the budget.

Hearing no questions or comment from the public, the Moderator asked for the vote on the 2012-2013 school budget as written. **Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

ARTICLE 2. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund (School Buses) previously established for this purpose.

**Motion was made, and seconded, to approve Article 2 as written.** With no further public comment, **motion carried by unanimous vote.**

ARTICLE 3. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety-seven thousand dollars (\$97,000) to purchase a 66 passenger school bus, and authorize the withdrawal of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from the Capital Reserve Fund (School Buses) previously established for this purpose. The balance is to come from general taxation.

**Motion made, seconded, to approve Article 3 as written.**

A member of the public raised a question about the option of purchasing a smaller bus. Mr. Andrew Kerns, Chair of the School Board, responded that research by the Board for a

smaller bus traces back to the 1980s. Mr. Kerns continued that although a small bus may cost less it would not sufficiently meet the needs required of it nor would it be tough enough for the road conditions. A 47-passenger bus did not have enough cost savings. There are a total of four buses, three of which are in operation. Responding to a second question from the public, the Board stated that there was no operational cost difference between a 66 passenger bus and a smaller bus. **Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

ARTICLE 4. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Expendable General Trust Fund (School Building Maintenance Fund) established for that purpose in 1996.

**Motion was made, and seconded, that Article 4 be approved as written. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

ARTICLE 5. To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) to be added to the Whitney Maintenance Trust Fund previously established for this purpose in 2010.

**Motion was made, and seconded, to approve Article 5 as written.**

After inquiry from the public, Dr. Nelson replied that there is an \$8000 balance in the fund. **Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

ARTICLE 6. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund (Special Education) previously established for this purpose, with such amount to be funded from the year end undesignated fund balance available on July 1, 2012.

**Motion was made, and seconded, that Article 6 be approved as written.**

Dr. Nelson explained to the public that the fund was used to pay for the cost of special education if a student of special needs moved into the district. A \$100,000 is currently in the fund. Mr. Kearns reminded the public that last year they voted not to add money to the fund, capping it at \$100,000. However as costs of special education go up, the Board recommends adding to the fund as a safety net in case a student with special education needs comes into the school district. **Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

ARTICLE 7. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund (Tuition Trust Fund) previously established for this purpose, with such amount to be funded from the year end undesignated fund balance available July 1, 2012.

**Motion was made, and seconded, to approve Article 7 as written.**

A question was asked about the purpose of this fund. Dr. Nelson explained that it is possible that the 2014-2015 tuition may increase so adding to this fund now will off set a possible tax increase to cover tuition in the future. Mr. Kearns added that if a new student moved into the district mid-year this fund could cover the added tuition cost. There is \$32,000 in the

fund at present. The public asked for a per pupil breakdown of tuition costs. Dr. Nelson stated that although costs are not calculated in this way, it cost \$31,000 per pupil to go to Kennett High School. There are currently 19 Jackson students at the High School. **Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

ARTICLE 8. To see if the School District will vote to approve the three-year tuition contract with the Bartlett School District for the Jackson seventh and eighth grade students to attend the Josiah Bartlett Elementary School.

**Motion was made, and seconded, that Article 8 be approved as written.**

Dr. Nelson stated that tuition to Bartlett Elementary School for the seventh and eighth graders is \$17,500 per student. A member of the public asked the Board what the alternative school options were for the seventh and eighth graders. The Board replied that options included Kennett Middle School in Conway or the middle school in Gorham. The Board reminded the public that it is a three-year contact with Bartlett while there is a 20-year contract with Kennett High School. A member of the public, and parent, expressed her support and satisfaction with sending Jackson students to Bartlett for seventh and eighth grade. A question was asked about the percentage of Jackson students at the Bartlett School. Dr. Nelson reported that there currently are 13 Jackson students between the seventh and eighth grades and there are 242 total students in the Bartlett Elementary School grades K-12. **Motion carried unanimously.**

ARTICLE 9. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

A member of the public commented on her concern over Jackson's ability to influence curriculum decisions made at Kennett High School, pertaining specifically to cancelled programs. Mr. Kerns responded that Jackson is currently in the fourth year of a 20-year contract with Kennett High School. If Jackson makes a formal complaint to Kennett, they have three years to respond and correct the complaint. Ms. Genn Anzaldi, member of the School Board, noted that Kennett was recently awarded accreditation and has added more AP courses to the curriculum. A member of the public encouraged the Board and the public to continue participating and voicing their opinion in meetings concerning Kennett High School.

There being no further public comment, **Motion was made and seconded to dissolve the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

Respectfully submitted,



Courtney J. Croteau  
Jackson School Board Clerk