

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Tuesday, January 15, 2019
Thetford Elementary School

DRAFT MINUTES

Charlie Buttrey convened the meeting at 6:32 p.m. The following were present: Julie Acker, Charlie Buttrey, Scott MacPhee, School Board; Colin McLaughlin, Interim TES Principal; Bruce Williams, OESU Assistant Superintendent

PUBLIC PRESENT: Kate Hill

AGENDA REVIEW: Agenda approved with amendments.

MINUTES REVIEW: Postponed.

PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE: None

DISCUSS FOURTH DRAFT OF BUDGET FY20: Merrick presented an updated draft budget with itemized line items and details. He also distributed the personnel listing of salaries and benefits for FY19 and FY20. Several changes have been made due to recent discoveries. The first major edit is related to special education budgeting. Merrick matched paras' salaries and benefits between the budget and the personnel records. As a result the staff salaries line item has been corrected, reducing spending. In addition, information from the paras special education time study, which provides information about the hours spent on special vs. regular education, was used to amend previously over budgeted expenditures. The principal's salary was adjusted and professional development for the principal was deleted. Discussion followed. The second major edit is related to secondary education tuition. TA tuition will increase by 1%. Four more Thetford students were added to projected enrollment. The regular education portion of tuition for vocational students had been over budgeted and this has been corrected. These changes result in getting TTSD us out of the spending penalty range. This latest draft budget results in a -0.5% local tax reduction. If spending is increased by \$40,000, the tax rate would be flat. The budget does not include the LEA position. McLaughlin stated an LEA to oversee special education services and spending will result in long term savings. If the LEA is inserted into the budget this year TTSD would hit the excess spending penalty. The Board votes next Tuesday on the warning. Williams commented that Thetford is probably not the only school in the SU who needs an LEA representative. Could this be an SU position that is shared between schools? This would need a lot of SU board support. Discussion followed. The SU does not vote on its budget until later. If it's an SU position this person could go to TA because the LEA has to follow Thetford secondary students. Williams would argue the LEA ought to be a special educator. Acker stated she has concerns with budgeting for an LEA, adding to the tuition reserve, and/or the capital reserve without having the equalized pupil figure from the state, which will not be out until after the budget is warned. TTSD risks going back into penalty for excess spending. A separate article for

the reserve funds would avoid excess spending penalties. Williams advised holding off on the LEA position until it is determined if the SU can address it. Williams noted the transportation contract is pending. The figure Merrick used is probably reliable, but there could be more discussion regarding the contract and it could go out to bid. The roll over contract calls for \$2,000 more, which is what Merrick has included in the budget. There is \$76,000 in the capital reserve fund and \$0 in the tuition reserve fund. \$115,000 is listed in a “special revenue fund”, the purpose of which is not specified. \$43,000 is listed in “reserve/trust funds.” It is unclear how this money can be spent. Merrick will investigate and report back to the Board. The library/tech fund line was increased due to English Language Learner costs. However, despite the 0.2 reduction in the librarian/tech position, expenditures are still increased by 15%. Discussion followed. TES gets free internet because it is a community hub for EC Fiber.

OTHER BUSINESS: Acker gave an annual report update. Addresses can be printed on the back of the report with a permit paid stamp, and they can be mailed for a cost of \$300. The alternative is that Borst prints out all the labels and Acker labels 1,000 reports. The Board is in favor of spending the \$300.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: (Acker/MacPhee) moved/seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. (unanimous approval).

FUTURE MEETINGS:

01/16/19	OESU Meeting	6:00 p.m.
01/22/19	Thetford Town School District Meeting	6:30p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Amy Bosco, Minutes Clerk

These minutes are not official until approved by the School Board.