

RSU 73 – TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2011 – 6:30 PM
JAY MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Committee Members in attendance: Chair Ashley O'Brien, James Collins, Tom Goding, Mary Redmond-Luce, John Wakefield, Denise Rodzen, Business Manager Stacie Lowe, Superintendent Susan Pratt and Superintendent Robert Wall.

Chair Ashley O'Brien called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Mr. O'Brien stated that this meeting would be a forum for questions and comments not a forum for criticism.

Motion was made by Jim Collins and seconded by John Wakefield to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2011 Transition Committee meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Motion was made by Jim Collins and seconded by John Wakefield to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2011 Transition Committee meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Superintendent Wall reported that students voted today on the school name, mascot and school colors and asked Sally Boivin and Spec Eaton to report on the results.

Spec Eaton, Jay High School Principal reported that over the last couple of weeks students generated recommendations for choices for the school name, the mascot and school colors. The students were presented with five choices in each category and the results today were: school name Spruce Mountain High School and Middle School, school mascot The Phoenix, and school colors to be green and black. Students in grades 5 through 12 were involved in this process and deserve a lot of support for what they did.

Motion was made by Jim Collins and seconded by Mary Redmond-Luce that the Transition Committee recommend to the new RSU 73 School Board that the name of the High School, Middle School be Spruce Mountain, the mascot be The Phoenix and the colors be green and black. The vote in favor was unanimous.

I. BUDGET REVIEW: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE BUDGETS

Superintendent Bob Wall stated that the main purpose of the meeting tonight is to review the revenue portion of this budget and how to apply the revenues that we have.

He reported that the proposed budget is an increase of \$57,871.18, it provides transition supports, includes offsets related to the decommissioning of the Livermore Falls Middle School, provides for the support of restructured staff assignments and significantly reduces position elimination.

A factor that influences this budget is Livermore Falls reduced 2010 valuation, this influences the cost sharing and also increased the amount Livermore Falls receives from the state.

RSU 73 – TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Dr. Wall reviewed the cost sharing and tax impacts for each of the three towns and the amount that will need to be raised for taxes in each town. He presented the proposed school tax impact for Jay taxpayers based on the budget and current town valuation.

Superintendent Wall reviewed the proposed in-house repair and maintenance cost for maintaining a bus garage for district repairs on district owned equipment and buses.

Motion was made by Jim Collins and seconded by Tom Goding to recommend to the new RSU 73 Board that they remove from the budget the funding requested to start up a bus maintenance department which consist of a mechanic, a helper, tools/supplies, and any associated building costs. Then add to the budget the cost to outsource the bus maintenance at this time. The vote in favor was three (3) with John Wakefield and Ashley O’Brien opposed. The motion passed.

Other areas of review were to establish reserve accounts for energy – fuel/electricity, health insurance, capital projects, special education tuition/contingency, transition retrofits, and laptop computers.

Motion was made by Jim Collins and seconded by Tom Goding to recommend to the new RSU 73 Board to establish reserve accounts for energy, health insurance, capital projects and special education tuition/contingency. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Motion was made by John Wakefield and seconded by Tom Goding to recommend to the new RSU 73 Board that they include transition retrofits and laptop computers as recommended. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Superintendent Susan Pratt reported that they did look at the question relative to student teacher ratio at the Livermore Elementary School and have looked at federal funding for class reduction at the LES to help bring the JES and LES more in line with student/teacher ratios. This recommendation would have no impact on the budget – it would take the cost of one teaching position out of federal money with no additional cost to taxpayers.

Motion was made by Jim Collins and seconded by John Wakefield that the Transition Committee recommend to the new RSU 73 Board of Directors this budget as amended. The vote in favor was three (3) with Mary Redmond-Luce and Tom Goding opposed. The motion passed.

II. UP COMING MEETINGS/AGENDAS

It was determined that the work of the Transition Committee is complete and they will not need to meet again.

III. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:52 PM motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

/bhs