

**MINUTES** of the Madawaska School Committee Regular Meeting held January 14, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Superintendent's Conference Room.

**PRESENT:** Yves Dube, Chairman                      Michael C. Wright, Superintendent  
                 Paul Cyr    Ginette Albert  
                 Roger Thibodeau                                      Wayne Anderson  
                 Michael Lavertu                                        Donald Garon  
                 David Morneault                                        Christine Cowie

**GUESTS PRESENT:**                                      **see attached list**

- I.     **The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.**
- II.    Adjustment to the Agenda.
  - A) Adjustments

**Mr. Dube asked for any adjustments in the agenda. Mr. Wright said he would like to add a letter of resignation under correspondence.**
- III.   Correspondence and Announcements.
  - A) Classroom Teachers Negotiations Letter
  - B) Support Staff Personnel Letter of Intent to Negotiate

**Mr. Wright informed the committee that he had received two letters from the Madawaska Education Association and that he would discuss in more detail later in the agenda.**
  - C) Resignation

**Mr. Wright informed the committee that he had received a letter of resignation from the MS/HS Head Cook Louise Rossignol. The position has been advertised internally as an "interim" position. Mr. Cyr stated that the application should have been advertised in the newspapers. Mr. Wright believed the policy was to advertise internally first.**

**Mr. Cyr also stated his belief that the committee should determine if the position was to be interim. Mr. Wright stated his reasons for advertising for an interim. Mr. Dube thanked Mr. Cyr for his comments. Mr. Wright indicated he would revisit the policy.**
- IV.   Period of Public Participation about Items on this Agenda.

**No one took advantage of public participation.**

V. David Morneau moved to approve minutes of December 17, 2008 as presented. Seconded by Roger Thibodeau and so passed 5-0-0.

VI. Roger Thibodeau moved to approve the December 2008 Financial Report as presented. Seconded by David Morneau. 4-0-1

VII. Superintendent's Report:

✧ Mr. Wright thanked all those who he interviewed in his attempt to learn more about Madawaska.

✧ Also, he mentioned that much of this report was informing the committee about agenda items.

✧ Mr. Wright reported on the work being done by Garavanta regarding the handicapped accessibility. Mr. Anderson gave a report on this topic as well.

✧ It was reported that LJB Plumbing was close to being halfway done with the MS/HS steam trap work.

✧ Mr. Wright also referred to the letter that the Madawaska School Dept. had sent to the Commissioner of Education in December. Thus far, no word back on cancellation/forgiveness of penalty.

VIII. Other Reports:

Mr. Dube reported that the town selectmen, budget committee and school committee met to discuss the budget for next year.

IX. Items of Business.

**New Business:**

A) French Program Update – Ginette Albert

Ginette Albert updated the committee on the new approach to teaching French at the elementary schools. Mrs. Albert read reports from several teachers.

B) National Teacher Certification Recognition – Wayne Anderson

Wayne Anderson reported to the committee that Michael Taggett had recently received National Teacher Certification. The Committee will write a letter of commendation/congratulations to Mr. Taggett.

Mr. Cyr asked if there was some monetary benefit that may be attached as well. Mr. Anderson stated that the contract does call for a "stipend" for attaining this status.

C) NWEA Testing – Elementary School – Ginette Albert

Ginette Albert passed around handouts and gave a lengthy presentation regarding NWEA testing. She related some of the early benefits of this program. School Committee members asked several questions.

D) Negotiations

Mr. Wright discussed the two letters from the Association and mentioned that David Morneault and Roger Thibodeau were the two committee members negotiating.

Old Business:

A) Boiler repair/replacement at the Middle/High School

Mr. Wright presented an advertisement designed to solicit qualifications from prospective firms. Mr. Cyr made a motion to authorize the superintendent to place an RFQ in the newspapers. Seconded by Roger Thibodeau and so passed 5-0-0.

B) 2009 – 10 Budget Discussion

Mr. Wright is working on a timeline to meet on the budget. Roger Thibodeau asked for more clarifications. Paul Cyr asked to consider forming a budget sub-committee this year.

C) Elementary School Tractor

Mr. Wright explained some of his investigations into the tractor issues. He presented four options to consider are as follows:

Option #1

Buy new John Deere blower	\$3,600
Repair Shaft	<u>\$1,500</u>

Total: \$5,100

Option #2

Buy after market in Canada

Loader	\$5,000
Blower	\$4,000
Accessories	<u>\$1,000</u>

Total: \$10,000

Comments - After market parts. A loader can be purchased to fit the tractor.

Options #3

Lease/Purchase tractor and equipment

\$6,252 for five years if quarterly payments = \$31,262

\$6,509 for five years if annual payments = \$32,509

Option #4

Continue to contract out for work

Paul Cyr motioned to approve option #1. Motion failed due to no second.

David Morneault moved to approve option #2 seconded by Roger Thibodeau.

Discussion ensued as to why the blower in option #1 was less than the blower in option #2. Paul Cyr asked if he could offer an option that would summarize the discussions.

David Morneault withdrew his earlier motion.

Paul Cyr moved to authorize Superintendent Wright to purchase a blower and loader and to do necessary repair work in the most economical manner. Seconded by David Morneault and so passed 5-0-0.

- X. Roger Thibodeau moved to adjourn meeting at 8:00 p.m. seconded by David Morneault and so passed 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael C. Wright  
Superintendent of Schools  
and Recorder