

MINUTES of the Madawaska School Committee Regular Meeting of April 8, 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 Barbara Pineau
David Morneault

GUESTS PRESENT: **see attached list**

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Adjustment to the Agenda.

A) Mr. Wright asked that we set next dates for budget workshop meetings under item IX, New Business, C.

III. Correspondence and Announcements.

Chairman Dube shared conference being offered by Drummond Woodsum May 19 - 21st. No members expressed interest in attending.

IV. Period of Public Participation about Items on this Agenda.

Barbara Pineau stated data was given to support keeping the middle school guidance counselor last year.

V. Approval of the Minutes of the regular meeting of March 11, 2009 and special meeting of March 21, 2009.

Paul Cyr commented about early release April 10 (Good Friday). Paul Cyr motioned to strike "Good Friday" in the minutes of March 11, 2009. Roger Thibodeau seconded. Motion failed 2-3-0. David Morneault, Yves Dube and Michael Lavertu opposed.

David Morneault moved to accept minutes of March 11, 2009 as presented. Seconded by Roger Thibodeau and so passed 4-1-0. Paul Cyr opposed.

David Morneault moved to accept minutes of March 21, 2009 as read. Seconded by Roger Thibodeau and so passed 5-0-0.

VI. Approval of the **March 2009** Financial Report.

Paul Cyr asked why the steam traps expenses appeared in the operating budget. After discussion Mr. Wright will look into getting information on the steam traps and where the money came from.

Michael Lavertu moved to accept the March 2009 financial report as presented seconded by Roger Thibodeau and so passed 4-0-1. Paul Cyr abstained.

VII. Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Wright stated that the items in his report are all intended to give information about the agenda items. He asked that we move forward as these items will be discussed throughout the meeting.

VIII. Other Reports:

None

IX. Items of Business.

New Business:

A) Special Teacher Recognition

Mr. Wright recognized Gisele Faucher as having received a National award from Toyota. She was one of twenty-five chosen out of approximately five hundred applicants. The school committee congratulated her.

B) Middle School Guidance

1) Consideration of Elimination of full-time Guidance position

Mr. Wright stated that his charge from the School Committee has been to bring in a budget that is sensitive to declining enrollments and the ability of the taxpayer to pay. Mr. Wright shared statistics to demonstrate the declining middle school enrollment as well as statistics from other schools to demonstrate their guidance models.

Paul Cyr stated that this is not a good idea. That we have tried it in the past and it was a disaster. He moved that the board members reject the Superintendent's recommendation.

David Morneault seconded the motion 'for the sake of discussion.'

Arianna Kelly spoke about how it didn't work in the past. Roger Thibodeau wondered why we continue to look at this position. Chairman Dube stated that he felt that the plan was well thought out and that it should be supported even though he personally supports the work the current counselor is doing. Paul Cyr stated that was not a good idea to ask administrators to pick up the load left by a half time counselor.

Mr. Wright stated that the role of administrators has changed and that the assistant principal is not just the "bad guy" anymore.

Chairman Dube asked principal Wayne Anderson and he supported the Superintendent's recommendation. He would rather lose a half counselor than a teacher.

After discussion Paul Cyr moved not to accept Mr. Wright's recommendation to make the middle school guidance counselor to half time. Seconded by David Morneault and so passed 3-1-1. Yves Dube opposed and Michael Lavertu abstained.

- 2) Consideration of creation of half-time Guidance position

See item 1.

- C) Next budget meeting date is set for Wednesday, April 15, 2009.

Old Business:

- A) Policies for second reading for revision:

- 1) GCFB-R1 Recruiting and Hiring Staff
- 2) GDE - Support Staff Recruiting/Hiring

Paul Cyr voiced his objection to rewriting this policy, as the school committee members should be involved in the decision making of hiring staff. He also stated that we have perfectly fine policies.

Mr. Wright stated that he brought the policies forward because of confusion and the need for clarity. Policy GCFB-R1 is intended to be a policy for hiring teachers, he said. It requires a three-step process by law. Mr. Wright said he would not recommend hiring cooks, custodian, and bus drivers by the same method. He does not think these should require a board voting on them.

David Morneault move to cease discussion. Seconded by Roger Thibodeau and so passed 4-1-0.

David Morneault moved to accept both policies for 2nd reading and revision. Seconded by Michael Lavertu and so passed 4-1-0. Paul Cyr opposed.

B) Heating System Discussion

Mr. Wright shared the results of the questions brought up by the school committee. He recommends setting up an ad hoc committee. Mr. Wright recommended reducing the number of firms to two from four. Mr. Wright pointed out that the heating system is just part of a bigger issue known as “facilities”, and that facilities is part of a bigger plan which includes “enrollment” and “programming”.

Paul Cyr moved to accept basic premise and to proceed with Mechanical Services and McCormick Facilities Management. Seconded by Michael Lavertu and so passed 5-0-0.

C) David Morneault moved to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D) to discuss negotiations between Madawaska Classroom Teachers and Madawaska Educational Support and the School Committee. Seconded by Roger Thibodeau and so passed 5-0-0.

Time In. 8:00 p.m.

Time Out: 8:20 p.m.

POST EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Roger Thibodeau moved to accept the Reduction in Force (RIF) rating scale as part of the Madawaska Classroom Teachers Bargaining Unit contract. Seconded by David Morneault and so passed 4-1-0. Paul Cyr opposed. Paul Cyr stated that he was disappointed in the document that placed far too much emphasis on seniority and not enough on classroom performance.”

X. Roger Thibodeau moved to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. Seconded by Michael Lavertu and so passed 4-1-0. Paul Cyr opposed.