

Sanborn Regional School District
Budget Committee
Approved Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 4, 2019
Sanborn Regional High School Room 137

In Attendance:

Annie Collyer, Chair	Charlton Swasey, Vice-Chair
James Doggett	Mary Cyr
Jack Kozec	Cheryl Gannon
Larry Heath, School Board Representative	

Absent: Sandi Rogers-Osterloh, Kingston

Committee Chair Annie Collyer called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM

Motion to approve minutes of January 17, 2019: Mr. Doggett

Second: Mr. Heath

DISCUSSION:

Amendments offered:

Page 1

- Paragraph 6, remove all text after the words “statements/comments”
- Paragraph 7, Article 4, add to the beginning: “Ms. Gannon recused herself from both discussion and voting on this article due to a family member being a member of the professional staff.” Remove, “with Ms. Gannon recused.” from the end.
- Page 2, Article 11: Ice Hockey Team: Motion to recommend failed, Add: “Ms. Gannon opposed”

VOTE TO APPROVE MINUTES AS AMENDED: Unanimous

Mr. Heath advised the committee that legal counsel told the school board that the content of the professional and support staff contracts are not public until the voters have approved them. We are voting on the amount only. Members commented that it seems unfair that the committee is asked to recommend and voters are asked to approve contracts without knowing the content. In the past, if both negotiating parties agreed (district and unions), the contents have been made public.

MOTION by Ms. Gannon: To direct Mr. Heath to ask the negotiating parties (school board negotiators and the unions) to waive the non-public designation and allow the conditions of the proposed professional and support staff contracts be made public.

SECOND: Mr. Swasey

DISCUSSION: none

VOTE: IN FAVOR: Unanimous

Chair Collyer stated that Superintendent Ambrose told her that the annual report will include the names and salaries of all staff. Also, he asked if the Budget Committee wants the Deliberative Session slide show printed for attendees. She indicated that it would.

He asked about where funding would come. The committee agreed that the slide show has historically been printed for the Deliberative but no member had knowledge of a specific line item to fund it. Since the committee has not been able to hire a secretary, that might be a place where funding could be obtained.

Deliberative Slide Show Budget Presentation

Ms. Collyer indicated that after the January 17 committee meeting, she had some ideas and information that she felt could be included for the Deliberative Session that would add to the transparency of the presentation. She referred to the revised slide show that she had emailed to committee members.

MOTION by Mr. Doggett: To restore the presentation to the same slides that had been presented at the Public Hearing

SECOND: Mr. Heath

DISCUSSION: Points made during discussion included that if any actual dollar amounts had been found to be in error, they should be corrected but that any new slides that were suggested to be inserted after the committee's agreement on content at the January 17 meeting should not be added to the Deliberative slide show. One member felt that one of the suggested slides included some information that could be misleading and confusing. Ms. Collyer offered that the median household values in the communities are \$275,000 per the towns' assessors. The Public Hearing slide show used \$300,000 as an example to show the estimated tax impact calculations. There was consensus that since the calculations were estimates anyway, the difference would not be highly significant so the slide should not be changed.

Mr. Heath indicated that his interpretation of legal counsel's advice was that inaccurate numbers could be changed but that the intent could not.

Ms. Gannon commented that while she appreciated the consideration of making the presentation transparent, she did not appreciate that revisions were emailed to members with the expectation that they would approve without having the opportunity to ask questions, discuss and vote on them in a duly notified, public meeting, in violation of the Right To Know statute. She appreciated that Ms. Collyer did decide to call a meeting to have this discussion.

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

A suggestion was made to include a slide with the committee positions that are to be on the ballot with names of those running. There was consensus that this should be included.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Ms. Collyer

SECOND: Mr. Doggett

IN FAVOR: Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned 6:11 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Gannon,
Recording Secretary Pro-Tem