

Croydon School District

School Board Meeting Minutes: 21 Dec 2021

- A. Call to Order at 6:47: Jody Underwood
- B. Roll Call: Jody Underwood, Aaron McKeon, Tom Moore
- C. Public Forum 1
 - 1. Two members of the public asked where we would post the notice for the meeting, including the video link; Aaron to post on the town website and Nicole to ask Mary to post it onto the school's website
- D. Changes or Additions to the Agenda
- E. Approval of Minutes from November 16 and December 7, 2021
 - 1. Jody motioned to approve the November minutes, Tom seconded, passed 3-0
 - 2. Tom motioned to approve the December minutes, Jody seconded, passed 2-0 (Tom abstained)
- F. Personnel
 - 1. None
- G. Reports
 - 1. Superintendent's Report
 - i. Newport tuition will be increasing 14% to ~\$17,000
 - ii. No formal changes to the transportation situation but there is the option to purchase a 15 passenger transport van (to be discussed later in the meeting) and Newport is offering to transport children in grades 5-8 to their school
 - iii. Frank will be proposing reorganizing staffing as it pertains to the budget (to be discussed later in the meeting)
 - 2. Associate Principal's Report
 - i. K-1 working on handwriting skills; ornament-making for fine motor skills; learning about money; non-fiction texts
 - ii. Grades 2-4 are learning about money and non-fiction texts.
 - iii. Parent-Teacher conference occurred and there was some great feedback; the new reporting system was an adjustment
 - iv. A total of 6 students have tested positive for COVID-19; only 1 resulted in a closure because the rest were able to stay quarantined at home (i.e. no children or staff were put at risk)
 - v. Discussed STAR testing results, which measure student progression throughout the year as compared to what would be expected of them
 - vi. Fountas and Pinnell assessments will be conducted during January for another datapoint on student performance
 - 3. Business Administrator's Report
 - i. None
 - 4. Sustainability Committee's Report
 - i. The December meeting was rescheduled for the first Tuesday of January
 - ii. Aaron and Beth met to go over financials, and Aaron will have analysis complete on various options by the next meeting
 - iii. Frank was redirected to the University of New Hampshire School of Business for longer-term planning tips

- iv. We reviewed key high-level takeaways from past meetings, which can be found attached to previous board meeting minutes; highlights include demographic challenges potentially facing Croydon Village School, improvements needed on the buildings, surveys of homeschooling community to think of how we might attract more children to the Village School, alternative structures such as charter schools and innovation schools so as to provide creative cost savings opportunities, and discussions of which grades should be tuitioned out

H. Discussion Items / Possible Action Items

1. Presentation of the Budget – Frank, Beth, and Nicole

- i. Beth presented the first draft of the FY 2023 budget
- ii. Medical insurance will increase 6% and dental will go down -1.5%
- iii. No change to retirement (in year 1 of 2-year agreement)
- iv. Most significant change will be Newport increase in tuition to \$17,880, which is an 11.25% increase; the rate has increase 33% in a 5-year period
- v. Salary increase proposed is 3% across the board
- vi. High school budgeted tuition increase is \$67k and elementary is \$16k
- vii. Special Ed contracted services goes up \$30k based mostly on a change in providers
- viii. Information services will go up by \$5,000 because the new ALMA system, which was previously covered by a federal grant, will now need to be covered by the regular budget
- ix. Medical insurance will decrease -\$21k despite rates going up because there are fewer elections
- x. Facilities cost will increase by \$4k mostly due to hiring custodial services and also an increase in utility costs
- xi. The contract with Butler Bus ends in June, but they have held the budget the same to allow funds for whatever busing solution we decide to implement
- xii. Total net increase to the expense side of the budget is proposed to be +\$97k
- xiii. Average daily attendance was down, so state tax dollars coming in will be -\$60k
- xiv. Under the proposed budget, Nicole would be spending less time in the classroom; there would be a K-1-2 teacher, a 3-4 teacher, and a principal and special ed teacher
- xv. Proposed tax rate would go from \$7.22 to \$8.36 (+16% increase)
- xvi. Newport's rate went up so much because their average daily attendance decreased and they therefore receive less aid from the state
- xvii. There are ~50% of families that go to Montessori and then end up going to Newport for high school – are there other options that we could encourage (i.e. through transportation) that would be a better option for these families, and less expensive than Newport?
- xviii. Kearsarge is significantly more expensive than Newport (\$20k+)
- xix. Budget Hearing will be February 7; the district meeting is March 12

2. Transportation Update – Nicole and Beth

- i. Frank proposed purchasing a 15-passenger van that wouldn't require a commercial driver's license to drive; a local driver would be required that would have to take a short training; insurance costs would go up; we wouldn't be dependent on a bus company or needing a driver with a CDL; it was also discussed that we would then become responsible for our own maintenance
- ii. Mary to put something on our website, Frank to talk to Butler about advertising in the Kearsarge Shopper

3. Student Conduct Policy Update, 2nd Reading, Possible Adoption
 - i. Discussed repetition between the proposed policy and the student handbook; Jody to provide another revision of the policy
4. Wellness Policy Update, 2nd Reading, Possible Adoption
 - i. Discussed whether or not all policies actually need to be there per RSA's; Frank said he's review it and make appropriate changes
- I. Public Forum 2
- J. Next Meeting Date
 1. Next regular meeting will be January 18, 2022
 2. There will be a prep meeting for the district meeting on March 1, 2022
- K. Non-Public per RSA 91A (If Necessary)
 1. No non-public meeting
- L. Meeting Adjournment
 1. Meeting adjourned at 8:49pm