

APPROVED

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TOWN OF ORLEANS
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NAUSET REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Meeting of January 22, 2009
Held at the Nauset Regional Middle School

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Bob Jones

ROLL CALL:

- For the committee: Ed Brookshire, Dion Dugan, Bob Jones, Bonnie-Jean Nunheimer, Greg O'Brien, Paul O'Connor, Fred Walters, Rick Wood (Absent: Jon Porteus, Maureen Voke)
- For the administration: Michael Gradone, Gail Briere, Ann Caretti, Hans Baumhauer, Tom Conrad, Greg Baecker
- Also present: Town officials, staff, interested citizens

CITIZENS SPEAK

- Two parents spoke about their concerns over hearing that there may be cuts to the Middle School staff which would involve Language Arts and Foreign Language.

PRIORITY BUSINESS

- Assessment Article
*It was moved by Ed Brookshire and seconded by Paul O'Connor to authorize the article apportioning FY 11 assessments by the terms of the Region Agreement. **Voted unanimously.***
- Middle School Budget Review
Superintendent Gradone informed the members of the concerns of Massachusetts School Superintendents voiced at the MASS Winter Meeting in Marlboro with the deflating economy. The feelings are that the economy is out of governmental control and will be for 4 to 5 years. There is improvement in Medicaid reimbursement which the Region gets to keep; however, the elementaries do not, it goes to the Town. The Governor will make public the budget and the cuts he'll make next Wednesday. Supt. Gradone will give an overview of the state of the Region budget at the Joint meeting next Thursday so the elementary committees will know what's going on at the Region level, and will focus on the impact of the state's budget on ours. Reductions that have been made to the Middle and High School budgets has assessments at 8.8%. Mr. Gradone recommended that the Committee begin discussions to decide what level of funding they believe they can support after hearing all of the budget reviews, rather than identifying programs to not fund. The budget has to be certified by March 5. The Towns do not want to support an override this spring. Several members discussed what will be needed to get the budgets down without compromising the students' educational needs. It will be necessary to cut positions (not just teaching). The Committee indicated that they want to know what the impact will be for each cut being recommended. Mr. Dugan suggested reopening negotiations to level fund salaries in order to save positions. The Committee must take into consideration what the voters will support; not to come in with a budget that will require an override that won't be supported has consequences.

Mr. Baecker began his line-by-line budget review. There are no retirements this year. The total budget is up 2.58%; regular day is down -2.81%; special education is up 19.54%. Dr. Caretti addressed questions about the special needs budget.
- Region Only Budget Review
Mr. Baumhauer reviewed the Region Only budget section by section. The Region Only budget is up by 2.91% over FY 09.

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There was discussion of the cost of laying off staff with unemployment. In the past, most teachers who were laid off were able to get other jobs but in this economy that may not be the case. *It was moved by Bonnie Nunheimer and seconded by Ed Brookshire to ask the administration to prepare cuts to the budget by \$100,000 increments indicating what these cuts will mean to the program, beginning with \$100,000 up to \$500,000. Voted unanimously.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session is to discuss deployment of security personnel. *It was moved by Rick Wood and seconded by Paul O'Connor to move to executive session. Roll call vote: Ed Brookshire - Aye, Dion Dugan - Aye, Bob Jones - Aye Bonnie-Jean Nunheimer - Aye, Greg O'Brien - Aye, Paul O'Connor - Aye, Fred Walters - Aye, Rick Wood - Aye*

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Committee returned to open session at 8:35 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

- *It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



B.J. Newmier,
Secretary, NRSC