

**Trenton School Department
School Committee Meeting
4:30 p.m. Tuesday, 12 January 2016
Trenton Elementary School**

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Jennifer Bonilla, Gary Burr, Peter Finger, Andi Pepler, Judy Sproule

Others Present: Howard Colter, Mike Zboray, Julie Meltzer, Cindy Lambert

I. Call to Order—The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m. by the chairman, Jennifer Bonilla.

II. Approval of Minutes ([10 November 2015](#))

A motion was made by Andi Pepler and seconded by Peter Finger to approve the **12 November 2015** minutes as presented.

Vote: Yes-5 No-0

III. Public Comments (15 minutes) -None

IV. Communications/Reports

A. Chairperson -

B. Administration Reports:

1. **Principal's Report**— [See Attached](#)

2. **Superintendent's Report -**

Annual budget meeting is coming up on the 25th - The regular meeting will be at it's regular time. The budget meeting will be after that. Friends of Acadia will be doing a supper at the High School on that same night. Howard reviewed the process of the budget meeting for the board. He clarified that all members of the AOS are able to vote.

3. Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction

Julie Meltzer shared Trenton's role in curriculum, assessment and instruction activities in the district. She focused on the following academic areas discussing Trenton's work in reading, writing, math, science, social studies and specials. She shared teachers participation in district-wide initiatives and participation in professional development. Julie then updated the board on the district's work on standards based grading and reviewed NWEA, SBAC and writing data.

C. Other Reports

V. Approval of Voucher

VI. New Business

A. Request for Waiver of Tuition

Two school employees sent letters requesting that the board waive policy JFAB - Admission of Non-resident Students which states, students of non-resident staff members at Trenton Elementary School, shall be charged an annual tuition of \$250.00 per child. The Board discussed the history of the practice in Trenton as well as the reasoning to conform to the policy as voted on by members at both the district and local level. The board made no motion to waive.

B. Authorization for Superintendent to Purchase Heating Oil

A motion was made by Gary Burr to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to commit to purchase up to 10,000 gallons of #2 heating oil at a price of up to \$3.00 per gallon for the 2016-2017 heating season, seconded by Judy Sproule and unanimously approved.

Vote: Yes-5 No-0

C. School Security

Parents have had questions in the light of current events and shared them with board member Andi Pepler. The board expressed their desire to maintain a welcoming school by keeping the front doors open. Mike reviewed that all the school doors are locked except for the front. Howard reviewed which schools have locked doors in the district: MDES, Pemetic and Tremont. MDIHS and Connors-Emerson still have open front doors. Howard also shared that most schools have an emergency buzzer system. Mike will be looking into installing a similar system in Trenton. Mike shared that he will be doing a lockdown practice with staff only and one with kids and law enforcement this year.

D. AOS/RSU Discussion

The Board wanted to make sure all members of the committee were up to date - A group met and there was a sense that we should ask the question - What would be in the best interest of our students in a consolidated system? In the past the AOS board has looked closely at different aspects of this process and its implications for kids and employees.

This discussion is going back to the AOS board for a more clear statement about a path forward or shelving the discussion until after a new superintendent is hired.

E. FY '17 Budget Discussion

Mike reviewed the preliminary budget. Discussion about making sure that we budgeted conservatively for the high school and to work at keeping that line as steady as possible as we go through some fluctuations in enrollment. The board also had a discussion about the impact of the AOS budget on Trenton. The board agreed to bring concerns back to the AOS about the amount of increase. The board also previewed the potential impact of a pre-k program on the budget and how the addition would be handled at town meeting.

VII. Other Business

A. Winter Concert Decoration

The board discussed the importance of making school welcoming to all students and any decorations should meet that criteria.

B. Superintendent Search

Mike updated the board on the current status of the search.

VIII. Requests for Information— None

IX. Future Agenda Items— Budget discussion

X. The next regular meetings for 2016:

9 February 2016, 8 March 2016, 12 April 2016, 10 May 2016, June 14, 2016

XI. Adjournment: A motion was made by Peter Finger and seconded by Andi Pepler to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Vote: Yes-5 No-0

Respectfully submitted:
Michael Zboray, Principal