

Albany School Board
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2023
5:30 pm
Albany Town Hall

Board Members present - Tim Sorgi, Dan Bianchino. Also in attendance: Kevin Richard (SAU 9), Jim Curran (Chair of Madison School Board), Heather Woodward (Principal Madison Elementary School), Chuck Merrow and Anne Merrow-public.

- I. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm by Chair Tim Sorgi.

- II. Approval of Minutes (11-8-22) -
Dan Bianchino made a motion, seconded by Tim Sorgi, to approve the minutes of November 8, 2022. Minutes of the meeting were approved. **Vote (2-0-0).**

- III. Comments
 - A. Public - None
 - B. Board Member- Dan Bianchino brought up the issue of how the stipend for school board members is distributed and if there were a more equitable and efficient process instead of recording attendance at various meetings. Tim stated that this should be discussed with Curtis Coleman as the whole board should weigh in on this subject. Kevin will bring a proposal to the next meeting for discussion.

- IV. Signing of the Checks and Manifest - Documents were reviewed by Treasurer Merrow prior to signing.

- V. Business Affairs
 - A. Attendance at Meetings - Tim Sorgi-2 (9), Dan Bianchino-1(8), Curtis Coleman-(3)

 - B. Review Draft #1 of 2023-24 Proposed Budget
Kevin Richard reviewed the operating budget along with a history of Average Daily Membership (ADM) and Equalized Evaluation that impact the tuition calculations. Kevin also went over the increases and decreases to special education. The total budget including grants is \$1,715,520.

 - C. Review Draft #1 of 2023-24 Proposed Warrant Articles

Tim Sorgi reviewed the Warrant Articles. **Dan Bianchino made a motion, seconded by Tim Sorgi to place the amount of \$1,715,520 on Article 5 as the proposed budget. Vote (2-0-0)**

There was discussion about placing money on Article 6 to raise money for the Capital Reserve Special Education Fund. Dan Bianchino made a motion to place \$10,000 on the article. **There was no second to the motion so the Article was withdrawn.**

Kevin Richard asked if there were any other articles to be added to the warrant. Tim Sorgi stated that there may be one after the report from the Albany School Options Committee.

VI. Superintendent's Report -

Kevin Richard discussed the following:

There is an SAU 9 meeting on Thursday, February 9th at 6:00 pm. The SAU 9 executive board will be meeting on Wednesday, February 1st at 6:00 pm. Kevin encouraged all school board members to fill out the superintendent evaluation that will be sent out shortly.

The Conway, and Albany ESSER (COVID Relief) fund use plans have been revised and are uploaded to the SAU 9 website. The SAU office did reach out to the Albany school families to offer tutoring with these funds and several families did take advantage of this offer.

VII. Other Business -

A. FYI- 2023-24 School Calendar

B. Report From Albany School Options Committee-

Tim Sorgi asked Chuck Merrow to report out for the committee. Chuck reported that the committee has been doing some work and that Madison Elementary School would be the best option for Albany students in grades k-6. Tim said that it would be \$200,000 less to educate the students and that the committee also looked at test scores for Madison and Conway Elementary School. Tim stated that there is a Memorandum of Agreement ready to go with Madison should the district decide to opt out of the Conway Tuition Agreement.

There was discussion about placing an article on the warrant asking if Albany should send Conway a notice that they are opting out of the k-6 tuition contract. Notice has to be given to Conway three years prior to the end of the contract and that is June 30, 2023 otherwise Albany would be extended one more year.

Tim Sorgi stated that he has reached out to the Conway School Board several times, even attending one of their board meetings to discuss negotiations but there has been no response from Conway. There was discussion about developing a warrant article regarding the notification to Conway that Albany would not extend the k-6 tuition contract once it expires.

Kevin Richard said that the article would be advisory and that the school board would ultimately make the decision to opt out or not. If a negotiated agreement were developed for future years the town body would have to approve future obligations of a tuition contract. Kevin stated that Bartlett and Jackson go through this every three years and that both towns have articles on their warrants for approval.

Tim Sorgi made a motion *“To see if the residents of Albany will vote in favor of notifying the Conway School District to terminate the k-6 tuition agreement that expires in June, 2026. This would provide the three year notice as required in the existing tuition agreement with Conway. This article is advisory only and is non-binding.”* The motion was seconded by Dan Bianchino. Vote (2-0-0)

Kevin will run this by legal to make sure that the language of the article is written properly.

C. School District Meeting (March 14, 2023 at 7:30 pm)

D. Budget Hearing (February 14, 2023 at 5:30 pm)

VIII. Public Comments-None

X. Nonpublic Session-RSA 91-A:3 II -

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Dan Bianchino, seconded by Tim Sorgi. **Vote: (2-0)**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the initials 'K. R.' followed by a horizontal line and a small dot.

Kevin Richard
Superintendent of Schools