

**Albany School Board
Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2023
5:30 pm
Albany Town Hall**

Board Members present - Tim Sorgi, Dan Bianchino, Curtis Coleman. Also in attendance: Kevin Richard (SAU 9), Brigitte Ouellette (SAU 9).

- I. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by Chair Tim Sorgi.

PUBLIC HEARING on 2023-24 Proposed Budget

Chair Tim Sorgi opened the public hearing at 5:31pm. Superintendent Kevin Richard reviewed the budget explaining each section in detail. The budget is based upon the tuition calculations. The bond payment for the high school and middle school will be in one more budget cycle and then will be paid off. Special education costs are projected to be down for the 23-24 budget.

Sara Young Knox asked who paid for special education services for charter school students. Kevin explained that the town of residence was financially responsible and that this proposed budget included some costs related to charter school students.

Chair Sorgi read through the warrant articles including the article about whether the Albany School Board should notify Conway about terminating the k-6 tuition agreement with three years notice.

Stan Solomon had questions about the tuition contract and advocated for choice in where students would go to school. He stated that the existing contract was a bad contract for Albany.

A parent spoke about wanting her child to remain at Conway Elementary School as she is very happy with the school and was concerned about moving her child to another school.

Chair Sorgi stated that he had communicated directly with the Conway School Board several times to initiate negotiations but there has been no response. He also stated that the board was not ending all relationships with Conway but there were things in the contract that need to be addressed. The Albany School Options Committee has been

meeting for several years and has done diligence to look at options for educating students.

Curtis Coleman stated that there has been a long standing relationship between Albany and Conway, but it is in the best interest to let Conway know that Albany would like to negotiate new terms.

The public hearing was closed at 6:26 pm

II. Approval of Minutes (1-10-23) -

Dan Bianchino made a motion, seconded by Tim Sorgi, to approve the minutes of January 10, 2023. Minutes of the meeting were approved. Vote (2-0-1) with Curtis Coleman abstaining.

III. Comments

A. Public - None

B. Board Member- None

IV. Signing of the Checks and Manifest - Done

V. Business Affairs

A. Attendance at Meetings - Tim Sorgi-2 (11), Dan Bianchino-3 (11), Curtis Coleman-3 (6)

B. Consider School Board Stipends

School board members reviewed several options for stipends as provided by the superintendent. The total budgeted amount would not change, but the method of allocation would be streamlined. After reviewing the options **Curtis Coleman made a motion to pay the school board chair a stipend of \$600 with the other two school board members \$500 each. The motion was seconded by Dan Bianchino. Vote (2-0-1) with Tim Sorgi abstaining.**

C. Vote on Warrant Articles

At the last meeting only two school board members were present and the school board would like to have all members recorded for voting. **Tim Sorgi made a motion to place \$1,715,520 on Article 5 as the operating budget. The motion was seconded by Dan Bianchino. Vote (3-0-0).**

The language on Article 6 was reviewed. Tim Sorgi wanted to clean up the language and amend the article to read:

“To see if the residents of Albany are in favor of directing the Albany School Board to notify 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.”

Tim Sorgi made a motion to amend the language, seconded by Dan Bianchino. Vote (3-0-0).

D. Signing of Warrant and Budget Forms-Done

VI. Superintendent's Report -

Budget season is very busy at the SAU 9 office with multiple budget hearings in a short period of time. There is no longer a MWV Science Fair but there is a committed group of people who are creating an MWV STEM Expo modeled after the science fair. Students would volunteer to participate. The Expo will take place at Living Shores Aquarium near Story Land.

VII. Other Business -

A. Set Date for Next Meeting (April 11th at 5:30 pm)

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

VIII. Public Comments-None

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

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Dan Bianchino, seconded by Curtis Coleman.

Vote: (3-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Richard

Superintendent of Schools