

UNAPPROVED DRAFT 1/12/17	BOARD APPROVED 1/25/17	CORRECTIONS 1/27/17
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**Addison Northwest School District
Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 11, 2017
6:00 PM
Vergennes Union High School – Library**

Board Reps: Addison Laurie Childers
 Ferrisburgh: Laurie Gutowski, Kristina MacKulin, George Gardner
 Panton: Diana Raphael
 Vergennes: Sue Rakowski, Chris Cousineau, Mark Koenig, John Stroup
 Waltham: Tom Borchert

Administration: JoAn Canning, Superintendent
 Tonia Mears, Business Manager

Guests: Kara Griswold, Bob Owens, Kathy Barwin, Susan Anderson-Brown, Travis Park, Beth Brodie, Matt DeBlois, Stephanie Taylor, Jay Stetzel, Martha Kenfield, Elizabeth Armstrong, Lynne Rapoport, Andy Kirkaldy, Tara Brooks, Nancy Ambrose, Rick Ebel, Peter Maneen, David Croke, Beth Adreon

Call to Order:
 The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Childers.

 Amendments to the Agenda to include Action Items 1) Acknowledgement of Assumption; 2) Approval of Announced Tuition

Public Comment:
 None at this time.

Reports to the Board:
 FY 18 Budget Presentation – Superintendent Canning reviewed the Budget Highlights explaining the reductions being considered to get down to a level program budget. A total reduction from the previous budget presentation equals \$438,353. The new proposed level program budget totals \$21,116,289 which is a 1.68% increase to the current year budget. With these reductions, it will keep us under the threshold limit – going over would result in additional taxation.

 Business Manager Mears reviewed the Tax Rate Comparison for the draft level program budget as follows:

	17/18	16/17	17/18	
	CLA	Combined	Proposed	Difference
Addison	108.95	1.63	1.5337	(0.096)
Ferrisburgh	104.73	1.697	1.5759	(0.121)
Panton	104.89	1.5494	1.5743	0.025
Vergennes	100.48	1.6021	1.6184	0.016
Waltham	98.33	1.7653	1.6399	(0.125)

Business Manager Mears reviewed the draft balances received from the audits. The draft fund balances for FY 16 are as follows:

ACS	+ \$201,181
FCS	+ \$ 23,000
VUES	- \$ 32,800
VUHS	- \$ 19,215

If all goes well, it may be possible to retire the VUHS deficit by the end of FY 17.

Food Service cumulative balance, as of June 30, 2016 is a deficit of \$401,328 for all schools. This total has been accumulating for 10-12 years plus.

The auditing firm will present the audits at the March carousel meeting. Individual boards will need to address plans for any surplus.

Superintendent Canning stated since the new administration, the Special Education issues in the past have been cleaned up and heading on track in the right direction, with special thanks to Kara Griswold.

R. Ebel applauded the co-teaching model with Special Education being used at the high school. He asked questions about the food service deficit and the plan into the next budget year and how were negotiations built into the budget. Superintendent Canning replied there is a Food Service Transfer line in the budget to offset costs; currently looking into collaborating with Addison Northeast food service program; and hope to have a better handle on the program and deficit over the next five years. Her response on negotiations is that it is built on assumptions at this point and cannot be discussed in public, but there are changes involved with health care.

The Board recessed at 6:30 p.m. to attend a student presentation in the building. Motion was made by K. MacKulin, seconded by J. Stroup, to adjourn the meeting to attend the presentation. So voted and motion carried.

The Board returned at 6:52 p.m. and the meeting was called back to order.

Budget Presentation continued – Board asked questions about the proposed budget.

- Timeline to approve a budget – by January 25th

- Importance to stay under the threshold
- Maintaining personnel and programs with level program proposal
- Discussion on Capital Improvement Fund – to add additional article or not
- Discussion on current technology status and needs
- Discussion on how the debt service is handled

Chair Childers stated to the Board that two proposals have been presented, could one be taken off the table. Consensus was split amongst the Board to keep both proposals or remove one until more information can be presented.

VUHS Principal Taylor suggested the Board to give guidance with a total dollar amount figure, not by program.

Guidance for Next Meeting – Motion was made by G. Gardner, seconded by M. Koenig, to ask the administration to come to the next meeting with draft proposals showing a budget including \$100,000 and \$200,000 Capital Improvement fund but not to go higher than the 1.68% increase, two different scenarios. Discussion ensued. G. Gardner amended his motion to have administration present a proposal of a total budget that includes a \$100,000 Capital Improvement Fund, with an increase no higher than 1.68% with revised explanation list. So voted, five in favor and four opposed. Motion passes.

Discussion Items:

Annual Report Group – Superintendent Canning asked for a small group of Board members to come to her office on Tuesday, January 17 at 5:30 p.m. to review the contents of the Annual Report and suggest other information that may need to be included. S. Rakowski, C. Cousineau, G. Gardner and K. MacKulin volunteered to review.

Action Items:

Acknowledgement of Assumption – Motion was made by T. Borchert, seconded by L. Gutowski, to formally acknowledge assumption of the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank indebtedness to the fullest extent permitted by law unconditionally and irrevocably pledges the full faith and credit of the Unified District for payment of the same in accordance with the terms thereof. So voted and motion carried.

Announced Tuition for 2017-18 – Motion was made by G. Gardner, seconded by L. Gutowski, to accept the 2017-18 announced tuition rate for the elementary schools as \$12,729 and \$17,386 for the high school as presented and recommended. So voted and motion carried.

Next Meeting Date:

January 18, 2017 6:00 p.m. VUHS Library

Adjournment:

With there being no further business to be discussed, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Glory Martin

Recording Secretary