

**MINUTES OF BUDGET HEARING AND 2010 WARRANT ARTICLES,  
MASON SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NEW HAMPSHIRE, FEBRUARY 15, 2010**

A hearing of the Mason NH School District was held on Monday, February 15, 2010 at approximately 7:30 p.m. at the Mason Town Hall, pursuant to due notice of all members and the public.

Chairperson Wolfgang Millbrandt called the hearing to order. Upon calling of the roll, the following members answered present: Mary McDonald, Wolfgang Millbrandt, and Dr. Donald Hodges.

District Superintendent Dr. Deborah Bemis, Secretary Becky Partridge, School Board Clerk John Lewicke, and Mike O'Neil of MRI were present.

**Recognition of Public**

Refer to sign in sheet dated 2/15/10

**SB2 Hearing**

Opened at 7:30 pm

Mr. Lewicke said that he had received, accepted, signed, and verified all signatures. Chairperson Millbrandt asked the public if anyone wanted to speak. Mr. Babel stated that if the SB2 passed it just gives everyone the opportunity to vote. Mrs. McDonald voiced her concern in regards to incorrect information being disseminated to the public and therefore voters would be misinformed or uninformed. As an example, she stated that the most recent information given out by SB2 supporters about the building budget and its not being advertised was incorrect. Ms. McDonald also raised the concern that if SB2 is passed the information would have to be disseminated by other means, which could cost the tax payers more money. Mr. Jodoin asked why can't the information be placed in the Grapevine. Mr. Lewicke explained that that it is a private publication and that the School would have to pay for that advertisement.

Mrs. Babel told the Board that the SB2 supporters had a meeting last week at which time all were encouraged to attend tonight's budget hearing and by the lack of turn out she said she guessed they chose not to. Mrs. McDonald once again stressed that she was concerned that voters would not be informed coming to the ballots. Mr. Babel said those who wish to become informed will, and those who don't will not, no matter what the town does.

Closed at 7:40 pm

**School Board Increase From Three to Five Members**

Opened at 7:40 pm

Majority of the public in attendance stated that they thought this was a good idea. Dr. Hodges voiced his concern that it may be difficult to fill all the seats.

Closed at 7:45 pm

**Misc. Warrant Articles**

Opened at 7:45 pm

Mr. Millbrandt asked if there was a need for a Deficit Appropriation. Dr. Bemis said no. Dr. Bemis discussed with the public the need for a Warrant Article for Unanticipated SPED costs. There was no public comment. After a short discussion it was brought to the attention of the Board that there was not a Warrant Article for an Expendable Trust Fund to cover unanticipated tuitioning costs as requested by the Board at the last

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meeting. Dr. Bemis stated that there was still time to get a Warrant Article written for unanticipated tuitioning cost. Mr. O'Neil explained that these expendable trust funds would be funded from money remaining from the previous year's budget. Mr. Jodoin asked if there is a cap to these funds. Mr. O'Neil explained that it depends on how they are worded but yes there can be a cap placed on the amount.  
Closed at 7:50 pm.

**Operating Budget Hearing**

Opened at 7:50pm

Mr. O'Neil handed out several worksheets to the Board and public (attachments titled: FY2011 Draft Budget, Budget Recap Sheet, Debt Service Schedule, Analysis of Accounts, and Enrollment Projections-Tuition Costs)

Mr. O'Neil gave a brief explanation of the columns on the Draft Budget and how they were calculated. Mr. O'Neil reviewed the Enrollment projections sheet and discussed his reasoning behind budgeting for two extra students as a safety factor. Mrs. McDonald asked if the safety factor should be raised to four. Dr. Bemis told the Board that the District could set up a Capital Reserve to Fund this. Mr. O'Neil said that an expandable Trust Fund could be established for this but it would not be funded until the following year since it is funded from money remaining in the budget. Mrs. McDonald asked the public if they had any thoughts on it. Mrs. Devore stated that one family could throw off everything and felt the District should have as high as a safety net as possible. Dr. Bemis suggested that a Capital Reserve fund be set up with immediate funding. Mrs. McDonald inquired to Mr. O'Neil if that could be done. Mr. O'Neil stated that it would actually be a Expandable Trust with an immediate funding.

After a brief discussion it was agreed upon by all members of the Board, Mr. Millbrandt, Mrs. McDonald, and Dr. Hodges to remove the safety factor from the operating budget and make an expandable trust fund with immediate funding of \$40,000.

It was also noted that Dr. Bemis informed the Board that she had received confirmation from Mascenic School District that the tuitioning rate would be \$9,867. Mr. O'Neil was not aware of that number and Mrs. McDonald requested that Dr. Bemis forward him that information. Mr. O'Neil stated that once he receives that confirmation he will change the tuitioning amount to \$9,867.

After going over the sheets in detail Mr. O'Neil asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Babel asked why we needed to hire another aide. Mrs. Mulrey explained that due to the fact that lunch and recess each had to be divided into two sessions, there was a need for more coverage. She also explained that the District now has higher expectations of the children and therefore more help is needed in the classrooms. Mrs. Mulrey said the teachers all agreed that the district needs another aide. Mrs. Babel inquired whether these aides were also used as substitute teachers. Mrs. Mulrey said yes and it provides for seamless transitions when there is such a need. Mr. Dunn asked if the District uses volunteers in the classroom. Mrs. Mulrey said yes that there are a few, but since volunteers are required to have background checks, there are fewer people willing to volunteer. Mrs. McDonald also explained that she knew of a few

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residents who volunteered last year but due to the economy they have since acquired part time jobs and can no longer volunteer.

Dr. Hodges asked the public how they thought the district was spending their money.

Mrs. Babel explained that Mason has achieved their goal of becoming their own district and should be proud. Mr. Jodoin said that they have done a great job but now we just need to find the money.

Dr. Hodges stated that the District hopes to be the best in the State and that in order to analyze how the District is performing we have begun using the NWEA tests. Mrs.

McDonald asked Mrs. Mulrey to elaborate on the use of the NWEA tests. Mrs. Mulrey explained that the NWEA is an adaptive test that can be given up to four times a year, allowing the district to analyze the curriculum, teacher, and student performance. Mr.

Dunn asked if this test can provide needed information to reduce student "coding." Mrs. Mulrey answered yes, by early detection of a student's deficit we can hopefully intervene early, which is easier and therefore the student may never have to be "coded."

Dr. Hodges stated that the NWEA will give the townspeople something to look at when determining if the district is doing their job of educating Mason students.

Closed at 9:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Partridge  
School Board Secretary