

Minutes of the Chester School Board Meeting
December 9, 2009

The December 9, 2009 meeting of the Chester School Board was called to order by Chairman Royal Richardson at 7:15 p.m. Due to technical problems with Comcast the meeting was not broadcast live. The meeting was recorded for rebroadcast on CETV-22 and CETV-100.3 (HD).

Present:

- Chester school board members Chairman Royal Richardson, Valerie Weider, Catherine Treanor and Michael Romick.
School Board member Matt Stover participated via telephone. *[Note: the law changed last year so that members can participate and vote by phone.]*
- Principal Leslie Leahy, and Annmarie Scribner – District Financial Manager.
- Guests Kelly Glynn, Kelsey Slade Jodie Antoine; Pamela Simoneau; Steve Tunberg, Chester Selectman Joe Castricone, and Matt Rittenhouse reporter from the *Tri-Town Times*.

Absent:

- Superintendent Victor Petzy, Jana Ruiz, Special Services Coordinator

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MANIFEST

Chairman Richardson presented the following manifests for approval:

Payroll manifest #10A \$1,451.63
Payroll Manifest #11 \$61,838.92
Payroll Manifest #12 \$230,357.34

The motion to “accept the manifests as read” was made by Ms. Weider and seconded by Ms. Treanor.

There was no discussion.

Chairman Richardson called for a vote on the above motion made by Ms. Weider and seconded by Ms. Treanor. The motion passed by a voice vote of 5-0.

MINUTES

November 4, 2009

Minutes submitted to board from the November meeting.

Mr. Romick made a motion to “accept the November 4, 2009 minutes as submitted.” Motion was seconded by Ms. Weider.

There was no discussion.

Chairman Richardson called for a vote on the above motion made by Mr. Romick and seconded by Ms. Weider. The motion passed by a voice vote of 4-0. Mr. Stover abstained, since he did not attend the November meeting.

SCHEDULED GUESTS -

1. Pinkerton Students: Kelly Glynn and Kelsey Slade gave an update on happenings at Pinkerton Academy and an update on future events.
2. Steve Tunberg: Chester Emergency Management Director informed the board that the Selectmen have decided to pay for upgrading the circuits served by the generator at Chester

Academy. Mr. Tunberg said that he and Don Ennis have tentatively set a schedule for the electrician to do the upgrades during Christmas break. Mr. Romick reminded Mr. Tunberg that there is a basketball fundraiser slated for Christmas break at Chester Academy. Mr. Tunberg said he will speak with Mr. Ennis and the electrician on when the work could be done.

3. Susan Kessler, Technology Specialist, Update on Technology Grants – Chairman Richardson said that Ms. Kessler was unable to attend due to the weather (snow storm). Chairman Richardson announced that Ms. Kessler placed second for the NHSTE Susan Janosz Technology Impact Award sponsored by the New Hampshire Society of Technical Educators (NHSTE).

PUBLIC INPUT – Pamela Simoneau asked the board if they have added any teachers to the 2010-11 budget. Mr. Romick said that the board is still working on the budgets – proposed and default and the issue has been discussed. Ms. Simoneau asked if there was input from the teachers in grade 3 and grade 4. Ms. Leahy said that the teachers' time is divided more and that can be expected when the classroom increases from 16 to 22. Mr. Romick said that the school board is slated to begin workshops with the budget committee on December 17th. Ms. Simoneau asked what else can be done. Chairman Richardson said that it would be best to document the concerns and have all of the people make their concerns known. Chairman Richardson said that the school board controls the default budget and the budget committee controls the proposed budget. Chairman Richardson said that in order to make a strong case it would help to show the tax impact of adding two teachers. Mr. Stover said that the calculation would be for every \$10,000 added to the budget the tax increase would be approximately \$0.0175. Mr. Romick added that the school board has not added or reduced any teachers in the 2010-11 budget and suggested that if any changes in this area are to be made, it be done based on public discussion at the deliberative session. Ms. Weider said that is just as important to come and speak to the budget committee as well as the school board.

BUDGET COMMITTEE INPUT – the budget books will be presented to the budget committee on December 11, 2009 and the first workshop has been scheduled for December 17, 2009.

REPORTS – Written reports were provided to board members.

PRINCIPAL – report submitted and delivered by Ms. Leslie Leahy.
Summary of topics:

**Academic
Personnel**

Fully Staffed

1 Maternity leave expected in May 2010.

Student Management

Enrollment Report- Enrollments are consistent with last month.

	Sept 2008	Oct 2008	Nov 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	March 2009	April 2009	May 2009	June 2009	July 2009	August 2009	Sept 2009	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	Dec 2009
Public K											37	37	35	35	34	34
Grade 1	64	64	65	64	64	64	63	63	63	63	69	71	68	68	68	68
Grade 2	65	67	67	67	67	66	66	66	66	66	64	63	63	63	63	63
Grade 3	68	68	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	65	67	65	65	65	65
Grade 4	82	82	84	84	84	82	82	82	82	83	68	67	67	67	67	67
Grade 5	75	76	77	77	77	78	78	78	78	78	83	84	83	84	85	85
Grade 6	84	84	84	84	84	82	82	81	81	82	79	80	75	75	73	73
Grade 7	83	81	82	82	82	82	81	80	80	80	83	88	84	84	85	85
Grade 8	83	82	83	85	85	85	85	85	85	84	80	84	83	84	84	83
SUB-TOTAL	604	604	609	610	610	606	604	602	602	603	628	641	623	625	624	623
Pre-3 yr	6	6	7	7	7	8	8	8	8	9	5	5	7	7	7	7
Pre-4 yr	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	6	6	6	6
Kindergarten	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11						
SUB-TOTAL	26	25	26	26	26	27	27	27	27	28	13	13	13	13	13	13
TOTAL	630	629	635	636	636	633	631	629	629	631	641	654	636	638	637	636

Building and Grounds

Hunting and Posting signs- There were recent concerns about hunters near the school and a gentleman inquired as to whether the school is posted. The district does have signs posted which are done annually. The administration also spoke to Chief Burke at the monthly safety meeting and the police have also addressed the issue. The Chester Police department has already spoken to one of the hunters and is continuing to monitor the situation.

Administration

Continuing to work on 2010-2011 School Budget

Community Relations

- **December 13th Solstice of Sound** from 2-3pm in the cafeteria. Musical selections will be performed by UNH students for Chester Academy students and their families.
- **December 14th, 15th, 16th-Author Presentation** Author James Gelsey is coming to the school to give 4 assemblies for grades 1-6 and two days of mini workshops for grades 4-6 on creative writing. He is the author of the "Scoobie Doo" mystery series. This activity is sponsored by the Educational Trust of Chester.
- **December 15th Winter Concert** will be held at the Stockbridge Theatre at 6-8 pm.
- **December 16th PTA Meeting** in the media center at 7:00pm.
- **December 16th Jazz Band** plays at the Barnes and Noble fundraiser in Manchester. A portion of the money from purchases of Chester families will be donated to the school to purchase curriculum supplemental materials.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR – No Report submitted and delivered by Ms. Jana Ruiz due to weather.

FINANCIAL MANAGER – Report submitted and delivered by Ms. Annmarie Scribner.

09-10 Budget Forecast –

- Regular education as of December 9, 2009 has a positive balance of \$109,487. There are three areas responsible for this. First, the tuition line is showing a surplus of \$114,778. Second, Improvement of Instruction has a surplus of \$10,000. Third, there is a surplus in the Office of Superintendent line of \$9,384 mostly due to a change in the insurance plan.

- Special Education is currently showing a negative balance of \$124,704. The reason is because the Out of District Tuition line is over \$107,405, Salaries and Benefits are over \$40,044 – Pinkerton Academy aides make up most of this amount. There is some savings in the Pinkerton tuition, Psychological, Speech, PT and OT lines. .
- Overall there is a negative balance of -\$15,217. The plan is to monitor the accounts and offset the deficit with the IDEA funds that are anticipated from the State of New Hampshire.

SUPERINTENDENT

Reference Superintendent Report by Dr. Victor Petzy. Report presented by Ms. Leahy.
Items covered throughout the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

Use of Chester Academy as an Emergency Shelter: Covered earlier in meeting.

Time Lines for '10-'11 Budget Development: Dr. Petzy recently sent out the final dates including Dec 17 and 30 for meetings with the Budget Committee, January 13, 2010 for the Regular School Board meeting and January 14, 2010 for the hearing on the cost items that will appear in the warrant (regular budget, teacher contract and trust fund contributions).

09-10 Budget Forecast: discussed earlier in the meeting.

Teacher Contract Negotiations: Update – Chairman Richardson announced that there is a tentative agreement between the Chester School District and the Chester Educational Association (CEA). Chairman Richardson added that the Board will be considering ratification in closed session.

Warrant Articles for '10-11 Budget Proposals and Teacher Contract

Agreement: Dr. Petzy presented to the board a draft of the 2010 warrant for review. Chairman Richardson read the articles.

- **Article 1 – Sets the deliberative session and the date for the ballot vote as per SB2**
- **Article 2 – To accept the reports by district officials**
- **Article 3 – Election of Officers. There are two school board positions for three year terms, one year term for District Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer.**
- **Article 4 – To change the terms of the District Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer from one-year terms to three-year terms beginning in the 2011 election.**
- **Article 5 – Placing up to \$25,000 from any unreserved funds (surplus) into the Maintenance Fund**
- **Article 6 – Placing up to \$25,000 from any unreserved funds (surplus) into the Educational Disabled Children Fund**
- **Article 7 – The Collective Bargaining Agreement between the school district and the CEA**
- **Article 8 – To request a one-time special meeting if Article 6 is defeated to be set by the school board**
- **Article 9 – The 2010-11 Operating Budget**

Follow Up on Vote to Allow Pinkerton to Accept Additional Auburn Students - Derry voted not to allow Pinkerton to bring in additional Auburn students, even though they would not have created a need to purchase more services and the tuition would have offset the basic per student tuition charge. Hampstead and Chester voted to accept the students but the decision has to be unanimous as per the contract agreement.

Discussion followed on why Derry chose not to vote in favor of the request. Mr. Romick added that once the people of Derry hear that they could have reduced the Pinkerton tuition line the board may reconsider. The addition of the 25 Auburn students would have been a revenue increase of about \$200,000 and by not agreeing it still would not decrease the staff size at Pinkerton.

Mr. Romick suggested that Chairman Richardson ask the Hamsptead school board if it would like to join with the Chester School Board and in sending a letter to the Derry School Board requesting that they reconsider their vote. The other board members agreed with this suggestion.

NEW BUSINESS –

Update on Technology Grant – Susan Kessler. Due to the inclement weather this item was suspended to a future meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE – Letter concerning hunting in the vicinity of Chester Academy covered earlier in meeting. Chairman Richardson said that the NHSBA sent out an email regarding the State of NH Building Fund Issue and included a survey for feedback.

POLICIES – None.

PERSONNEL – None.

OTHER – None.

ANTICIPATED DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, January 13, 2010.

NONPUBLIC SESSION, RSA 91-A: 3II (c, e)

Mr. Romick made a motion “to move the meeting to a Non-Public Session, pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3II (c,e) for personnel and student issues” Ms. Weider seconded the motion.

Chairman Richardson called for a roll call vote on the above motion made by Mr. Romick and seconded by Ms. Weider. Roll call vote was taken and board members Richardson, Treanor, Weider, Romick, and Stover all voted in the affirmative, 5-0.

Meeting went into Non-Public session at 8:22 p.m. on December 9, 2009.

Also in attendance and participating in the Non-Public Session were SAU 82 Financial Manager Annmarie Scribner; and Chester Academy Principal, Leslie Leahy.

CLOSURE OF NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Romick made a motion “to conclude the Non-Public Session.” Ms. Treanor seconded the motion.

Chairman Richardson called for a roll call vote on the above motion made by Mr. Romick and seconded by Ms. Treanor. Roll call vote was taken and board members Richardson, Treanor, Weider, Romick, and Stover all voted in the affirmative, 5-0.

The meeting returned to Public Session at 9:55 p.m. on December 9, 2009.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION –

Mr. Romick made a motion to seal the minutes of the November 11, 2009 Non-Public Meeting Minutes. Ms. Treanor seconded the motion.

Chairman Richardson called for a roll call vote on the above motion made by Mr. Romick and seconded by Ms. Treanor. Roll call vote was taken and board members Richardson, Treanor, Weider, Romick, and Stover all voted in the affirmative, 5-0.

There were no further specific items for the Board's consideration or any items to vote upon.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mr. Romick made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Treanor seconded the motion.

Chairman Richardson called for a vote on the above motion made by Mr. Romick and seconded by Ms. Treanor. Board Members Richardson, Romick, Stover Treanor and Weider all voted in the affirmative 5-0.

The Meeting adjourned at 10:-- p.m. on December 9, 2009.

Draft minutes respectfully submitted December 10, 2009.
Minutes approved by the Chester School Board on January 13, 2010.

A true Attest.
Robert S. Grimm, School District Clerk

APPROVED