

Superintendent informed the Board of the transfer needed from health services account to the purchased services to cover ongoing legal costs.

MOTION: by Erika Wiecenski, seconded by Michelle Cunningham, to approve the transfer of \$25,000.00 from health insurance district to BOE purchased services for legal expenses.

VOTE: All in Favor
Motion Passed

Board reviewed and discussed the breakfast, lunch and milk pricing. The State requires any school at less than \$2.70 to increase their lunch prices by 4.19% each year until they reach \$2.70 by 2018. The percentage would be about a \$.10 increase. Superintendent Harding compared the lunch prices in Ashford, Mansfield and Coventry and everyone is approximately within \$.05 of each other.

Barry Wallet stated the increases should occur only when needed to cover expensed not when demanded by the State.

Members noted that two years ago the State said there was too much surplus, suggested raising it and spending it on higher quality of ingredients to be even healthier, others agreed that that was the intention of the law. Superintendent reminded that there are many restrictions and guidelines that are mandated as to what can and cannot be bought and served.

Board decided they would like John Frassinelli from the State Health Services Department and Wendy Knight, Willington's Food Service Manager, to be at the next meeting to discuss the options and speak to the issues before a decision is made.

Members noted that the MBR changing is effected by the free and reduced lunches and if there is an increase it may affect those numbers.

Superintendent informed the Board of the generous donation in the amount of \$2,600 for the purchase of the Hook Books program, Pre-K equipment and standing desks from Success SEPTO. The Board thanked SEPTO acknowledging that they have been contributing for several years now.

Superintendent informed the Board about the proposed changes to the Hall Memorial School Schedule for the science and social studies blocks. He explained that this is typically an administrative decision that does not come before the Board but because of changes that occurred in the past where parents and teachers complained even after the teachers requested the changes made, he was hesitant to move forward without bringing it to the Boards attention.

The teachers, administrators and students have issues with the current schedules due to the switching and confusion of day to day which class is being taught. The proposed schedule would be half year of science and a half year of social studies. Both the current and new science teachers, social studies teacher and administration were consulted along with student opinions on this.

Members expressed their concerns about the winter half being impacted more greatly with snow days and vacations, the motivators when a student does not like a subject but has it for half a year, the semester model being more of a high school item, and not being able to follow and utilize the current events and seasons in each subject if not taught all year. Discussed the 6 day rotation, the testing and when science would be taught for grade 8, the past schedules that have

been tried already, and the issue of science teachers leaving being partly due to teaching multiple grade levels. Superintendent Harding clarified block scheduling and the advantages. Members expressed they did not feel that they were qualified to speak on this topic when they do not know all the items that go into making the schedule work. Board stated will support the decision made by the administration on the schedule but would like the Superintendent to bring their concerns to the admin and teachers. Board also stated that if the new schedule is not working well that it be changed before the following school year.

Board discussed the proposed CT State Police Firearms Training Facility being located in Willington and whether or not there is a legitimate reason the schools have interest in this topic and if the Board should be expressing it officially. Members discussed if it is at the point where it is affecting our facilities, the noise impact on children, and the negative to property values in town and the perception which may affect potential families to move to Willington or not which may impact student enrollment. Discussed the legislative process, to request to have the schools be part of the impact study to be performed, and who would be contacted by a letter to express the Boards position.

MOTION: by Mark Jones, seconded by Mark Makuch to write a letter to oppose the CT State Police Firearms Training Facility relocation to Willington.

VOTE: All in Favor
Motion Passed

Member Michelle Cunningham offered to compose the letter to send to the various sources.

OLD BUSINESS:

Superintendent provided update on the Board goal handing out a draft narrative on the eliminated options. He informed the Board that the Quit-Claim Deed on Hall School stated that if it is not used as a school it would revert back to the Hall Foundation. He spoke with the building inspector who is willing to do a presentation to talk about the issues regarding renovations.

Superintendent updated on the budget stating the Board of Finance has given the appropriation for the difference for the MBR. The budget as of now will contain enough funds to put the 1% into the non-lapsing fund with some excess to repay the approximate \$9,000 for the MBR given plus a little more.

Superintendent reported on facilities stating that both principals, a custodian from each building and himself met with EMCOR last week and ironed out the issues and questions concerning the maintenance contract. Plan to move forward with the contract and monitor it closely for a year. The contract is \$12,000 for both schools which includes the boilers, HVAC and pneumatics. The cost of the contract is covered by the salary line for the district head custodian position. There will be documentation, the work will be done correctly, and each year the cost of repairs should decrease. The repairs quoted are being done in two phases, phase one working on now and phase two to be started in July. Will revisit the contract after a year to determine how well it is all working out for costs and effectiveness.

Board discussed the new Policy #3171, Non-lapsing Education Fund. Superintendent stated the Board of Finance was in favor of the concept of the fund and had similar discussions as the Board of Education. The BOF wants control of the fund and had John Patton designated to be the representative to draft the policy with the BOE. Superintendent Harding, Barry Wallett and

John Patton met and looked at various policies and used language to edit the policy presented at the last meeting.

Board discussed policy committee's normal process for drafting and approving the policy and not wanting to set any precedents regarding how this policy was drafted.

Board reviewed the policy and determined on three changes to be made, one under revenue sources; to clarify the 3% base cap is of the recently ended fiscal year K-8 education budget, two under allowable expenditures; eliminate funding a teacher position due to unexpected enrollment increases, and three under closing of the fund; change public notice to approval at a town meeting.

MOTION: by Michelle Cunningham, seconded by Erika Wiczenski, to adopt the Policy#3171, Non-Lapsing Education Fund as presented with the three changes as discussed regarding the base cap amount clarification, eliminated teacher position funding, and change public notice to approval at a town meeting.

VOTE: All in Favor
Motion Passed

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

Erika Wiczenski recapped the discussion that took place about the HMS schedule for Science and Social Studies explaining the Boards concerns to Deborah Sullivan, HMS Principal. Principal Sullivan explained that there are pros and cons to every schedule and reviewed the other ways it has been tried in the past.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Members thanked Michelle Cunningham for offering to write the letter on behalf of the Board, Donna Cook for raising her concerns and executing her democratic duty, Success SEPTO for their fantastic gift, and all involved in keeping the school buildings together and in order without a district head custodian. Congratulated HMS chorus on the platinum metal and stated the concert at the competition was impressive, noted members enjoyed the concerts, baseball and softball has ended and thanked the coaches and stated graduation will be on June 18. Board wished everyone a happy summer and they are excited for the opportunity of improving the quality of the schools.

MOTION: by Erika Wiczenski, seconded by Michelle Cunningham to enter into executive session at 8:40 p.m. to discuss the pending litigation and the superintendent evaluation and invite the Superintendent to join.

VOTE: All in Favor
Motion Passed

Board exited executive session at 9:20p.m.

MOTION: by Erika Wiczenski, seconded by Michelle Cunningham, to extend the term of the superintendent contract one year to June 30, 2018 and to increase the superintendent salary 3%.

VOTE: All in Favor
Motion Passed

Meeting adjourned at 9:25p.m.

Nichole Page
Recording Secretary