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**MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD Minutes
(SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT No. 40)
December 20, 2010**

- 1. Call to Order** Chairman Bragdon called this meeting of the Milford School Board to order at 7:06 p.m. on Monday, December 20, 2010, in Lecture Hall #182 at the Milford High School, following conduction of a public hearing, as recorded separately. Those present, together with interested citizens, were:

School Board Present Peter Bragdon, Paul Dargie, Carolyn Halstead, Len Mannino, and Bob Willette.

Staff Present Robert Suprenant, Superintendent of Schools; Katie Chambers, Business Administrator; and Laurel Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

Recorder J. Bradford Seabury.

Chairman Bragdon declared a recess to hold a public hearing, covered by separate minutes, calling this regular meeting back to order at 7:18 p.m., following conclusion of that public hearing session...

- 2. Board Member Comments** Chairman Bragdon asked if there were any comments from Board members. None being brought forward, he continued to the next agenda item.

- 3. Public Comments** Chairman Bragdon asked if there were any introductory comments from members of the audience on matters other than the budget, which would be discussed subsequently. None being brought forward, he continued to the next agenda item.

4. Reports and Presentations

- a. Superintendent's Report** Superintendent Suprenant informed the School Board that, unless the School Board objected, the School District was eliminating the late school bus for students, noting that this bus ran from 4:15 p.m., Monday through Thursday. He explained that the number of students taking this service had ranged from two to six students per day, saying this did not justify the \$50 cost per day. He noted that the elimination of that bus service had been posted on the School District's Web site, as well as throughout school announcements, adding that he was not aware of any feedback, as yet.

Mr. Dargie asked if parents were being notified. Superintendent Suprenant said that could be done, and he reiterated that it was announced in school and was posted on the District's Web page.

Mr. Mannino asked if the School Board needed to vote on this. Chairman Bragdon said the Board could just let it happen. Mr. Mannino asked if that

meant it was being taken out of the proposed budget. Chairman Bragdon said it would not be stopped, unless the Board took action. No motions were brought forward.

Superintendent Suprenant then introduced Mr. Mike McInerney, Director of Community Service Media, saying Mr. McInerney would describe a contest he had brought to Milford High School and the results of that contest.

Mr. McInerney said there had been a contest conducted through Comcast Sportsnet, with an award to be handed out to a community member for service or impact. He said students had auditioned, explaining that the program was designed to give High School students experience in working in front of a camera. He said Comcast was only going to one high school. In New Hampshire this year, which was Milford. He then reported that Miss Morgan Anderson had won the contest and would appear on a Boston Celtics televised event to be broadcast on January 3rd. Miss Anderson then expressed appreciation for the honor and asked if there were any questions. She explained that the students in the contest had gone through scripts in front of the camera, and she acknowledged that she had considered making a career in sports and communication, so this was something she would like to pursue.

Mr. McInerney listed some of the media figures that Miss Anderson would be working with, saying this would be a very good experience for her career choice.

5. New Business

- a. Appointment of Wellness Committee Representative** Chairman Bragdon noted that Mr. Willette had stepped down from his position on the Wellness Committee because of time-conflict issues, noting the committee met about four times a quarter, at 3:00 p. m. Superintendent Suprenant said the policy was silent about appointing someone in place of Board members, but he thought the Board could decide to do that. Mr. Dargie offered to fill that function. Without objection, Chairman Bragdon appointed Mr. Dargie as the School Board member on the committee.

6. Old Business

- a. 2011/2012 Budget** Superintendent Suprenant distributed a handout, consisting of a revision to his previously proposed list of recommendations. He noted that the list was ordered in priority of impact, from least at the top; to greatest at the bottom. He said he had taken note of comments made about co-curricular activities at the last meeting, noting that some adjustments had been made to the co-curricular lines, as described in the notes at the bottom of the page. He noted that transportation could be reduced further, at some slight risk, adding that he was reluctantly recommending the elimination of junior varsity field hockey, as there had not been enough participants this year to field a team. He also said he was recommending elimination of the weight

room monitor, which was scheduled for three afternoons a week—saying he hoped the coaches would find ways to get supervision in there, or there would not be use of the room. He noted that the \$715 stipend for the Granite State Challenge, which came up every other year and affected only about six students, was being proposed to be eliminated. He then announced that he was recommending elimination of the High School and Middle School positions for Destination Imagination, saying there would be a single district-wide coordinator instead. He also pointed out the money (approximately \$9,000) removed from co-curricular activities was being applied back in, changing the prioritization, noting that Line #3 now was a \$12,500 savings, with the balance applied to Line #25, lifting the part-time associate from 3.5 hours per day to 5 hours per day, noting that the result would still be less than two full-time associates.

He said the blue-colored lines had been reprioritized, saying those positions would be vacant next year regardless of the budget situation. He said the yellow-colored lines were changed because of further deliberations and discussion with various individuals. He then discussed details of these changes, saying it was more of minor adjustments but had been done in response to comments made at the last meeting. He said the public still had to remember that none of this included the collective bargaining numbers, which had not yet been determined, and there was also possible change with respect to what the State would fund for the retirement system, saying these values would not be known until late next spring.

Chairman Bragdon asked for questions from the Board. He then obtained clarification that students would not be allowed in the weight room unless there was supervision and that there was some fluidity with respect to junior varsity field hockey if something else was dropped.

Mr. Dargie asked if no School Resource Officer would be hired for the remainder of this year, if dropped from next year. Superintendent Suprenant indicated that would be true. Mr. Dargie asked if the Board would be amendable to taking the leftover funds from this year's budget to apply it to next year. Business Administrator Chambers said that had been included in the fund balance, saying Administration was planning on using that money.

No other questions or comments being brought forward by members of the Board at this time, Chairman Bragdon asked for questions or comments from the public.

Mr. Jeff Frankiewich, 31 Clinton Street, asked if he understood correctly that money was being held over from this year. Chairman Bragdon said money left over and unanticipated funds would be carried forward. Mr. Frankiewich asked if the number for money carried forward from last year was known. Business Administrator Chambers said it had been about

\$500,000. Mr. Frankiewicz asked if the expected amount for this year were known—noting that every year there was money that was not spent, which was put back into the pot. Ms. Chambers said there was about \$600,000 left over at the end of each year, saying this was within one percent of the budget. Chairman Bragdon said it looked as though the School District was expecting about \$250,000 this year—pointing out that the District was not allowed to spend more than was allocated, and the District could be left in a precarious position by such things as heating and snow-removal costs if there were a bad winter.

Mr. Justin Wisbey, 29 Woodhawk Drive, referenced Line #27. Chairman Bragdon said the public should talk about the program, not the individual teacher. Mr. Wisbey then referenced a recent news article expressing concern about money being spent on bringing lower students up as opposed to helping higher-intelligence students. Chairman Bragdon asked Superintendent Suprenant to explain what was currently done. Superintendent Suprenant said there was a teacher serving about 150-gifted and talented students saying he was recommending elimination of that program to meet the cut requirement, but the school would substitute an online program that was being used by other schools. He noted that a small stipend had been included for a coordinator position. Mr. Wisbey said he did not think a computer program would be as helpful. Superintendent Suprenant confirmed that the current program was a combination of pull-out and classroom-integrated programming,

Ms. Carla Boudreau, 9 Windsor Drive, asked about the reduction of in-school suspension to four days a week in line 24. Superintendent Suprenant said the salary for that position was about \$22,000, being reduced by 14,819, explaining that the benefits for the full-time position were what made the significant monetary change. He said the person doing it now was a retired principal, getting some retirement benefits, with the students ranging from one or two students up to 9 or 10. Ms. Boudreau expressed a desire to know how many students were affected by the prioritized changes. Superintendent Suprenant said this had been a very reluctant recommendation, noting that the Board had asked him for a comprehensive plan. He noted, as another example, that the GED options program served a small number of kids but had a very large impact.

Mr. Kevin Harvey, 373 North River Road, asked for an explanation of Line #25, questioning who would take care of his daughter for the rest of the day. Superintendent Suprenant said this reduction should not affect him, saying this was a program associate who gave extra support. Mr. Harvey asked if the one at the High School would be reinstated (#7). Superintendent Suprenant said that was for a current student who would not need that help next year.

Mr. Steve Vetack, 5 Georgetown Drive, said he would like to hear from each Board member why the full budget could not be sent to the voters for

decision, with the cuts to be made later if the voters decided not to fund it. Chairman Bragdon said his own answer was that the Board was elected to propose various things to strike a balance between the needs of the taxpayers and the needs of the District, saying he felt this budget did that. Mr. Vetack protested that for the Board to make decisions on the cuts resulted in not giving the taxpayers a chance to voice their opinion. He reiterated that he would like to know why the Board members seemed to be afraid to let the voters speak their minds in this case.

Chairman Bragdon invited the other Board members to comment.

Mr. Willette responded that the voters had the opportunity to add things at the Deliberative Session; he said the Board had a responsibility to work for the whole town, not just the teachers and people who worked for the District, noting that Amherst had gone up only 2% this year.

Mr. Mannino responded that the voters spoke not only at the Deliberative Session but also at the Town Meeting, making those decisions because they spoke to candidates who were willing to run, and had to decide whether to vote or someone who believed what they believed. He said last year the voters had rejected the budget that came out and had removed someone from the Board, putting a fiscal conservative on instead. He said things had to be done that were best for the District, saying the Board had to be concerned about keeping kids in classrooms but also had to be concerned about keeping taxpayers in their homes.

Mr. Dargie responded that the School Board looked at various stakeholders, having the responsibility to balance the needs of all of them. He said he was not in favor of some of these cuts but was in favor of some.

Ms. Halstead responded that the voters could add things back in at the Deliberative Session.

Mr. Vetack said the voters at the Deliberative Session last year had put back in the money that the Board had cut. He said he felt the voters had spoken, but this did not mean the Board would do it. Chairman Bragdon said the Board did not have the ability to change what happened at the Deliberative Session. Mr. Dargie said it was really about the bottom line number, saying the Board did not have to follow specific objectives. Chairman Bragdon said the Board did not have to spend it, but this generally was what happened. Mr. Vetack said he wanted to encourage the Board to understand that a school district was not a business, saying the students were ultimately our futures and the students needed the best education that could be provided, and these cuts were too deep.

Mr. Trevor Frost, 74 Wellesley Drive, addressed Line #26., saying music was a very important part of the education of 4th and 5th-grade students.

Superintendent Suprenant said it was not a total elimination, saying the instrumental program was held during the day at Heron Pond but at most schools was an afterschool program. He said students now were pulled out of classes, but the recommendation added \$10,000 back for those students who were interested in an afternoon program, saying something would still be offered. He noted that 30% to 40% did not take music as 6th graders, but he did not disagree as to the value of music. Mr. Frost expressed fear students would not be interested in music if they had to choose between music and sports. He then submitted a 119-signature petition, also signed by about 260 students who strongly disagreed with this change.

Chairman Bragdon obtained clarification that the instrumental program was a pull-out program. Superintendent Suprenant said the pullout lasted for 35 to 40 minutes. Chairman Bragdon said he presumed this proposal did not affect classroom music instruction; Superintendent Suprenant concurred.

Ms. Peggy Howard, 105 Chappell Drive, asked what difference it made that the students did not continue. Superintendent Suprenant said he could not help but think that pull-outs affected the students' education. Ms. Howard asked about the monitor situation. Superintendent Suprenant said some middle schools used the Renzule online program, and he had included a stipend to have someone coordinate the program between students and parents. Ms. Howard asked how parents would be involved; Superintendent Suprenant said he did not know yet how the coordinator would function. Ms. Howard said she felt the bar was being lowered, even if surrounding towns were doing it; she said she understood that changes had to be made in bad economic times but she was concerned they would not come back.

Chairman Bragdon asked for clarification of the intended change of money for the music program; Superintendent Suprenant said the dollar values on his list were net-change numbers, adding that they were low numbers.

Four students, with Mr. Nick Webster as spokesman, said they wanted to ask about the woodworking technology program, with Mr. Tyler St. Gelis reading a prepared statement, which objected to the closing of the shop, commenting about some students not being given the education that they should be able to get, and he outlined the benefits of the training that had been available in this shop, commented that the Carl D. Perkins Act assured that the program would be available, and asked how it could be if the doors were shut at 11:00 a.m. He read aloud the High School Mission Statement, noting that the equipment was there and they knew how to use them but could not do so because there was no one present to supervise. He noted that contractor jobs would be available, suggesting that the students needed those opportunities. He said they had a petition but it was currently not available. He then spoke of his own experience, noting that in previous years he could get into the shop to work on his project when he had the time but now could not do so.

Mr. Taylor, noting he was a senior, said he could not do the challenging project he wanted because the available time was inadequate.

The remaining student said this was not helping him.

Chairman Bragdon noted they were referring to last year's drop.

Mr. Todd Boudreau, 9 Windsor Drive, said he understood the funds could be applied to next year's budget. Chairman Bragdon commented that there was \$250,000 not yet spent. 248,000 from the Job fund. Mr. Boudreau said he understood the need for a buffer, but he thought Lines 16 through 30 were roughly \$500,000, which would be covered by the surplus without having to eliminate one job. He said he did not want to eliminate the School Resource Officer, referencing the recent event in Florida. He said he would rather see the money used for teachers, suggesting that the top 15 items should be put to the voters.

Chairman Bragdon noted that part of the \$250,000 not yet spent this year was calculated into the revenue for the coming year.

Mr. Boudreau suggested that the Board work up from the bottom of the list, asking if there were a hard number available. Chairman Bragdon said the Board had not yet accepted any of these recommendations.

Miss. Samantha Berthelette, 14 Merrimack Road (#225), a High School student, said the Board was asking the High School kids to commit to online classes, and she felt it would be a drop in education. Superintendent Suprenant said most of the afterschool instrumental music would be one afternoon a week, saying he understood the appeal of sports but he presumed parents would work with coaches and not make kids make the decision. With respect to the online classes, he said, he was only presenting things many other districts had used, adding there were other ways of doing business—and that the District would not know if it could be successful until it was tried. Ms. Berthelette said she felt the Milford music program was better than that of the other schools, and these opportunities were what made Milford so great.

Mr. John Parker, 3 Falconer Avenue, referenced the co-curricula entry for Heron Pond asking what was being cut. Superintendent Suprenant said that was Destination Imagination, saying they were getting a District-wide coordinator. He said no changes had been made to the co-curricular positions at the Middle School level. Mr. Parker said it looked as if Heron Pond were taking a bigger hit than the other schools. He then said he tended to focus on three areas: preserving teacher/student ratios, maintaining the backbone of the schools (explaining what he meant was secretaries and instructional assistants, and he did not think people understood how important those were), and IT in the building—saying it

was getting hard to live without it. He then concluded by referencing the Vision statement, saying he did not want to change “all students” to “most.”

Chairman Bragdon asked Superintendent Suprenant to address what was happening at Heron Pond (#22). Superintendent Suprenant said there were currently six full-time instructional assistants, and the recommendation was to reduce them to 5.5 hours per day, eliminating benefits, plus adding two additional 5.5 hour people, saving \$105,000 but getting about the same coverage. Chairman Bragdon noted it would be 43 hours versus 44 hours, saving \$105,000, indicating benefits cost about \$130,000.

Mr. Richard Davis, 108 Foster Road, expressed confusion about some of the numbers. Chairman Bragdon said there were two numbers: unspent money (\$250,000) and money that the School District had not expected to have come in (\$238,000)—but the Board was not authorized to spend that at this point. He acknowledged that it would add up to about \$500,000 for next year, but was calculated in for revenue. Mr. Davis asked if there were just one \$250,000 distribution from the Job fund; Chairman Bragdon confirmed that to be the case.

Mr. Ken Jubett, 43 Chappell Drive, said he had mixed emotions, because of his faith in the Deliberative Session personnel. He asked the Board to focus on the people who worked with the children, giving anecdotes about how useful some of the aides were. He expressed sadness that these people who had worked so hard were going to take cuts in their salaries, noting that many of the people in the audience were part of that \$500,000 cut. He said the most correct thing to do would be to put \$600,000 back in the budget and let the chips fall where they may.

Ms. Suzanne Schedin, Osgood Road, said she had just gotten her second *My Kid Is An Honor Student* sticker, and she commented about what her children were learning in the classrooms. She said that Mr. Mannino was elected by people who knew him and how he thought, and who wanted him to vote the same way. She expressed a concern that when things got cut they did not come back.

Mr. Mannino responded that he *did* consider his personal beliefs, but sometimes he had to vote for what he believed was in the best interest of the overall school district, and what he thought was best might be different from what professional educators thought. He said having four kids in the District was part of why he had been interested in running for the Board.

Mrs. Schedin said she wished the people who wanted the cuts were here.

Ms. Carol Chaplin, the current music teacher at Heron Pond expressed appreciation for the support she had received. Recalling that she had said she wanted to do some research, she said she had gotten over 9,000,000 hits for music and 7,000,000 for afterschool programs—but several major

studies, done nationally, found there was a significant relationship between kids involved with music and how they did on tests. Overall, she continued, there was a 10% gap between the regular students and the instrumental students. She said she could not bring in a stack of statements, but wanted to say it was not about the money, as she would be moved around in the School District, after being here for 15 years, noting that two of her former students had spoken tonight. She said the educational opportunity would be greatly diminished if the program moved to the afternoon. She noted that she had worked in another town, previously, doing it different ways, and the difference was 40 students in the afternoon program, 124 in the class-time program. She also noted that adjustments had been made for some students, who should not be pulled out of class, saying they gave up their recess, instead. She also noted that there was a study saying pull-out time did not affect overall learning, adding that she would hate to lose the momentum of the students who continued under the current arrangement.

Ms. Rebecca Doherty, a staff member, asked of the increase in Town funding that would be needed because of kids dropping out. Chairman Bragdon said a number of the programs were not being eliminated but were being done differently. Ms. Doherty commented on the fact that the people in the program were trained, but the two being added would have to be trained, and other new replacements would have to be trained if some of those whose hours were being reduced left. She also expressed concern that real taxpayer costs would increase if kids now getting the benefit of the GED program dropped out after the program was dropped.

Mr. Eric Thompson, 107 Dracut Road, expressed a belief that moving music to the afternoon would increase the need for the late bus—and, conversely, eliminating the late bus would take away from students who wanted to do afternoon things. He said music was an important part of increased test scores.

Mr. Steve Vetack, speaking for a second time, noted that he coached the junior varsity baseball program for about \$3.97/hour. He said he had looked at the High School co-curricular coaches' salaries, saying virtually everyone who made \$1500 or more, if they took a \$350 cut in their salaries would more than make up for the co-curricular cuts. He said this would be a simple easy way to save some money but still have every program, and it might gain enough money to fund something else, such as the late bus or another coach, saying it would be a fair impact. With reference to the junior varsity baseball program, he said fundraising earned \$1,000 to \$2,000, spent on shirts, hats, gloves, etc.; if every sports program was required to raise \$1,000, he said, it might pay for a couple referees or bus trips, helping to cut the costs of the programs and thereby saving the programs that the people were really calling for. He noted he was just speaking for himself, but he would be surprised if any of the other coaches were not willing to take this cut. Chairman Bragdon noted that the total stipends for

academics and sports were about \$185,000, and ten percent would be between \$30,000 to \$40,000.

Mr. Bob Moody, 45 Highland Avenue, noted that Chairman Bragdon had said the District was not authorized to spend the unanticipated funds. Chairman Bragdon explained that they could not do so except by holding a public hearing, which they could do at the end of the year, which would be after the budget was approved. Mr. Moody asked what the Board members felt about that.

Chairman Bragdon said this was one-time money, not coming back next year, and he preferred to use one-time money to pay for one-time expenses, so the expenses would not come back again the following year.

Mr. Dargie responded that he agreed in principle, saying what was being discussed were ongoing expenses. He said it was a bad idea to hire new people with one-time income, but this was different, as it was not creating a new problem but merely postponing it.

Mr. Moody said the one year might mean a lot to the people being affected, as it would give them time to learn new skills or to find a new job. He then asked about the money set aside for merit increases for the unorganized people, asking if they historically got an increase each year. Superintendent Suprenant concurred, saying it was based on attaining goals for the year, responsibilities, etc. Mr. Moody asked if the unorganized staff members would be asked to reduce. Superintendent Suprenant said the principals and coordinators were organized, had been asked, and had declined. Mr. Moody said he understood there was a financial responsibility, but the Board also had to look at the moral responsibility, saying this was affecting people's lives and the students and the teachers—and he then expressed a belief that the \$500,000 in expected left-over funds, plus the \$250,000 Job fund and another \$250,000 next year added up to \$1,000,000..

Mr. Tyler St. Gelis, Cars Lane, asked if there were any plans for the woodworking program, or if there were plans to get it back into the budget. Chairman Bragdon said it was not contained in the budget presented by the Superintendent, and all discussion since had been about cuts rather than adding old ones back, so it was unlikely to reappear in the next year's budget.

Ms. Carol Chaplin, Heron Pond music teacher, said some people might not be aware that there was no late bus for Heron Pond, adding that it would not be appropriate, as there would have to be supervision outside of the lesson area. Referring to the previously referenced decline in band enrollment, she noted that in 5th Grade the students could be in chorus or band, but in 7th Grade could do both. She said she knew of 6th graders who were not in band that year but intended to go back the following year.

Mr. Alan Brooks, 223 South Street, an employee at Heron Pond, said the aides were reduced to part time but with two more being added, saying there might be a shortfall because they had to be outside supervising. Superintendent Suprenant said he felt that Principal Bonaccorsi was comfortable and had thought it out as to how it was going to work.

Ms. Paula Durand, speaking as a Milford taxpayer, said she wanted the Board to look at the whole picture, saying the big picture for her was the \$1,000,000, which she felt was too big a cut. She referenced #19, 20, 22, 26, 27, 29, and 30, saying she could not state the exact number of children affected, but it could be 10% to 20% of the total school enrollment. She asked if that was in line with what the Board had been expecting when it requested the \$1,000,000 cut.—saying she was concerned about the instructional time that would be lost. She noted these were all positions that were accepted by the School Board in the past. She said she had voted for several of the people on the School Board, and she requested the Board to amend it to something such as \$500,000. She noted that no one had come up at these hearings to say “Do not increase my tax amount;” instead, people were saying this cut was going too deep. She requested discussion as to whether the Board members felt that 10% cuts or more were acceptable.

Mr. Dave Alcox, 78 Wellesley Drive, referenced the co-curriculars, suggesting that alignment in fairness and equity might be considered—, saying he did not know what it was based on, but there needed to be some fairness and equity. He noted that everyone in town had had an opportunity to voice their opinion, but he felt cutting the Gates program was a real mistake, saying the face-to-face interaction was so much better than a computer screen, and that the best and brightest needed to be nurtured. He then referenced the IT cut, saying the District might have the best, but without the people it would be useless. He ended by saying the people were here to speak because they were vested in the community.

Mr. Alcox asked why the Granite State Challenge had been eliminated. Superintendent Suprenant said that had been selected, noting that it was not funded last year. Mr. Alcox said it was a 2-year program, noting it was up every other year.

Chairman Bragdon asked about #30, saying he understood that the Superintendent intended to discontinue that program. Superintendent Suprenant said he would recommend reinstating the money for a teaching position so as to have 11 First Grade teachers rather than ten with a Readiness position. Chairman Bragdon said he was not sure how the numbers worked out. Superintendent Suprenant said one of the economics was the affordability of a classroom for 12 to 14 students, saying the number was slightly less than 200 Readiness students in the state today,

and the standard was to find ways to meet the needs of those children in regular classes, and he felt the District could find way to do that.

Chairman Bragdon referenced the memo about the Federal Education Job Fund. Business Administrator Chambers reviewed the situation, stating that \$248,675.79 had been allocated to the Milford School District for school level compensation and benefits, excluding SAU personnel and contracted services. She said they had looked for one-time expenditures, finding the one significant was teacher early retirement (\$83,434). Chairman Bragdon asked why these were not ongoing; Ms. Chambers explained the way the early retirement program worked, saying there were people coming in every year and leaving every year (because they had been in for five years), and the \$83,434 would not be seen as a loss. Mr. Dargie said he did buy this, as there would be new people the following year. Chairman Bragdon said this was the first-year obligation. Mr. Dargie argued that the second year would go up. Ms. Chambers said it was possible to spend this for the current year, saying \$155,000 could be used this year for wages and benefits, or the Board could choose not to use it, making the whole amount of \$248,000 available for the current year. She said there would be an increase in the fund balance, which would reduce the tax rate in 2011. If the Board was considering using it to reduce the list of proposed reductions, she continued, the \$83,434 would restore the highest priority positions and a little more. She said the Board could wait as late as June to make its decision.—or, if deciding not to use it this year, could wait until June of 2012.

Mr. Willette referenced Line #22, saying he did not believe in paying credit card debts with another credit card, asking what the increase was for instructional assistants from last year (in the original proposed budget). Business Administrator Chambers said it was roughly \$150,000. Mr. Dargie said the figure was not known for this year. Mr. Willette said it was not an ongoing cost; he clarified that the School District already had a cost, which was already in the budget, so it was paying for a current one-time cost. Chairman Bragdon demurred, saying the question was what the six instructional assistants cost now versus what they cost originally. Ms. Chambers said the \$135,000 was benefits and insurances, and approximately \$5,000 in wages, so the total cost was between \$180,000 and \$220,000. Mr. Boudreau expressed a belief that this was not correct.

Chairman Bragdon then declared a 10-minute recess at 9:58 p.m. to allow time to determine the figure, calling the meeting back to order at 10:08 p.m.

Chairman Bragdon said the total difference between the current year and the originally proposed budget for the six instructional assistants at Heron Pond was an increase of no more than \$20,000, which went into next year, and the following year would have a further increase in benefits and salaries.

Chairman Bragdon said the Superintendent wanted some kind of number, as the budget had to be posted in mid-January at the latest.

Ms. Halstead said she was leery of one-time money, but it might not be a bad idea if it could save people. She suggested it be put on the warrant with a note saying it was one-time money.

Mr. John Parker, 3 Falconer Avenue, asked if there would be any expense in using this money. Chairman Bragdon said there would be no increase, but it was about 1% on the tax rate. Mr. Dargie demurred, saying it was an off-setting revenue, so there would be no impact. Chairman Bragdon said it would increase 1% if used this year; none if used next year. If used this year, he clarified, it would displace salary and benefit money that would be returned to the taxpayer; if used in 2011, there would be no impact in 2011 but it missed the opportunity to use it in 2010. Chairman Bragdon said the arguable point of the fund was to provide money to hire back people who were laid off last year.

Ms. Halstead asked if postponing laying off people actually was an increase, saying the only increase would be the 1.4%. Chairman Bragdon said it would be a wash for the next year, saying there would be no tax rate reduction if used next year.

Mr. Parker asked if there were any way to use the money to prevent layoffs

Ms. Katherine Stickney, 269 Savage Road, asked that she be given one more year, saying her husband was a self-employed finish carpenter who was not finding work.

Mr. Todd Boudreau, 9 Windsor Drive, asked if there were any item between #22 and #30 that would be a one-time expense. Chairman Bragdon expressed doubt, saying they would all be ongoing expenses in his view. Mr. Bourdreau asked if the \$248,000 stimulus could be earmarked for the next 12 years or so. Chairman Bragdon responded in the negative.

Mr. Bourdreau asked about other line items, saying that working from the bottom up, from #30 to #22, equaled \$361,032, covering it all if rounded off.

Mr. Dargie said the documentation on the use of the fund said the funds must be used only for school employees and benefits, or to retain or rehire. He said the money could not be used to pay people unless the alternative was to let them go. Superintendent Suprenant said he had been told that it would be okay to use if for wages and benefits. Chairman Bragdon noted that the next meeting was January 4th, and he suggested putting it off until the Board received a decision as to whether it could be used in the current budget.

Sister Marcelle Laperle, 26 Amherst Street, asked why the \$248,000 was needed now, in 2010. Chairman Bragdon said it did not need to be used now, but a decision was needed as to when it would be used.

Mr. Willette asked about the priority, asking if it would change again before the next meeting. He said he would like to see #22 addressed. Chairman Bragdon recommended putting off any vote until something could be obtained clarifying the use of the stimulus money.

Superintendent Suprenant asked if the actual number was needed for the public notice. Ms. Chambers said there was no bond, so the number did not need to be stated.

Chairman Bragdon said he also wanted to know the likelihood of a change in the retirement figure. Business Administrator Chambers said the default budget could not be developed until there was a budget, saying there was a crunch. Chairman Bragdon suggested presuming that the Board would approve all of these recommendations, noting that money could be put back in later. Ms. Chambers said about 130 items were involved. Chairman Bragdon said all that was needed at this time was the bottom-line figure. Mr. Dargie said he would like to see the Granite State Challenge come back. Chairman Bragdon concurred, saying the junior varsity issue also could be looked at. He then closed the discussion of the budget.

**b. Default
Budget
Policy**

Chairman Bragdon referenced the document he had provided, discussing details of what changes he had made from the previous version. Chairman Bragdon then moved that the School Board approve the first reading of Policy #2327. Mr. Mannino seconded the motion.

Mr. Dargie said he went along with some of the changes, but he had a complaint about the last item, saying it was his belief that this should be a one-time item and eliminating the phrase to non-recurring, let other things apply. He then described an example, saying there was a big distinction between "one-time" and "non-recurring." Chairman Bragdon noted that the definition suggested, noting that these were two different interpretations. Mr. Dargie said taking out ongoing expenses took away the voters' right to express dissatisfaction with the cuts made by the Board; he also noted that the way this was written meant that the default budget would not change if money were put back into the regular budget at the Deliberative Session.

Ms. Halstead said she used the default budget as what one had the previous year; she asked why it was done on the administrator's budget, rather than the one that existed. Chairman Bragdon explained the need for contractual obligations, minus one-time expenses, saying they amounted to more than 1%. Ms. Halstead said this did not mean that people had to be cut. Chairman Bragdon said inflation was not considered. Chairman Bragdon said the purpose of the policy was to guide the Superintendent in what to propose, but the School Board could make changes to it. Mr.

Dargie argued that one should be able to develop the default budget based solely on the prior year's budget, but this change meant that one had to look at the new budget.

Mr. John Parker, 3 Falcone Avenue, said he did not see how a position that had been there for many years could be considered a one-time event.

Mr. Jeff Frankewich, 31 Clinton Street, said the Board was echoing things that the audience had been trying to state for the past few weeks, as missing the cuts and making the operating budget so close to the default budget meant that the voters had no choice.

Ms. Halstead asked what the rules were. Chairman Bragdon said the rules were that the default budget could be whatever the School Board wanted it to be. Ms. Halstead asked about moving some things to warrant articles. Chairman Bragdon said they would have to come out of both budgets.

Vote: Chairman Bragdon called for a vote on the motion. Mr. Mannino, Ms. Hallstead, Mr. Willette, and Mr. Bragdon voted in favor; Mr. Daigle voted in opposition. Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried (4-1).

c. Policy Proposals

(1) Policy # 5013 Use of Physical Restraint (1st Reading)

Noting the late hour, Superintendent Suprenant said there was no need to address this evening.

7. Housekeeping Items

- a. Approval of Minutes** Chairman Bragdon addressed the minutes of the 12-06-10 meeting. Mr. Dargie noted that there was no report of what the inputs from the public had been, merely a list of who had spoken; he said he would like to see a summary of what they had talked about. Chairman Bragdon asked for the sense of the Board.

Mr. Willette said he did not think more was needed, as everyone had spoken on the same subject.

Chairman Bragdon directed the recorder to reinstate the missing text.

Mr. Parker expressed a belief that all who attended would appreciate being recorded.

Ms. Halstead referenced Page 6, saying she thought the contractual things got messed up. Chairman Bragdon asked the Superintendent to review that paragraph and send comments to the recorder.

Chairman Bragdon said the minutes would be taken up at the next meeting.

- b. Approval of Manifests** Chairman Bragdon addressed the manifests awaiting approval, listed as including Vouchers Nos. 15, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, and 1111. Mr. Dargie moved that the Board approve the manifests as listed; Ms. Halstead seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5–0).
- 8. Public Comment** Chairman Bragdon asked if there were any closing comments from members of the audience. None being brought forward, he continued to the next agenda item.
- 9. Non-Public Session** Superintendent Suprenant said the nonpublic session could be put off to the next meeting, in view of the late hour.
- 10. Adjournment**

.Chairman Bragdon then moved to adjourn; Mr. Mannino seconded the motion. All members voted in the affirmative, and Chairman Bragdon declared the meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

Chairman of the School Board

Date of Signing