MEETING MINUTES – FY2015
Rowe School Committee
Monday, December 1, 2014 – 5:30pm - Rowe School

Present: Lisa Danek-Burke (LDB), Lisa Miller (LM), and Susie Zavotka (SZ)

Also Present: Supt. Jon Lev (JL), Business Manager Carrie Garivaltis (CG), Principal Bill Knittle (BK), Ellen Miller (EM);

Audience: Gail May and Janice Lapointe

1. **Call to Order**: Chair Lisa Danek-Burke called the meeting to order at 5:57pm.

2. **Minutes:**
   a) **October 27, 2014:** SZ made a motion to accept the Oct 27, 2014 meeting minutes as presented. LM seconded the motion. LDB presented some corrections that need to be made. The motion was amended to have the corrections incorporated and to table approval to the next meeting. Amended motion passed unanimously (3/0/0).
   b) **October 8, 2014:** Approved at previous meeting.
   c) **November 13, 2012:** LM made a motion to accept the Nov 13, 2012 meeting minutes as submitted. LDB seconded motion; passed unanimously (2/0/1). SZ abstained as she was not on the board at that time.
   d) **September 19, 2012:** LM made a motion to accept the Sept 19, 2012 meeting minutes as submitted. LDB seconded motion; passed unanimously (2/0/1). SZ abstained as she was not on the board at that time.
   e) **January 29, 2013:** Ellen reported that Laurie Laffond confirmed with Judy Willis that this meeting was not held.

3. **Audience of Citizens:** No comments.

4. **Principal's Report:**
   a) **Report Card:** A draft of the new report card has been prepared. Each grade level is working on a list of 10-12 anchor skills to be added to the cards. This data will be input into Redeker software that will produce the cards.
   b) **Cultural Study:** Mini courses (cooking, weaving, basket making, instrument making, etc.) began this afternoon. Drummers and dancers performing tomorrow and will be working with students on their Dec 11th performance. Cultural luncheon next Tuesday. Lisa Miller will speak with students next week about her experiences in Ghana as a nursing student treating people at a mission. Rowe LCC provided $1,000 grant for the Ghana program.
   c) **AmeriCorps:** Aiden and Sarah who have been with AmeriCorps for 5-6 months will be here starting next Tuesday. They will be here through March.
   d) **All School Meetings:** Meetings hosted by a different classroom each month. The meeting last Wednesday was cancelled due to weather.
   e) **Professional Development Day:** On Fri Oct 31st worked on PARCC tests, spelling program.
   f) **Profession Learning Days:** Worked on educator evaluations, Bev Blatt presenting "Inspiration"—a computerized graphic organizer for students who are trying to write.
   g) **IT:** Graham worked with teachers on Google Docs. Well received.
   h) **Notification System:** Redeker notification system is now up and running.
   i) **Safety Plans:** Barbara and Bill have finished the plan with help of Rowe Police/Fire and State Police. Binders have been given to the staff. Will be practicing with staff.
   j) **Building:**
      - **Heating System:** Has been problematic. Too hot—too cold. SZ has written to contractor informing them that it is their responsibility to fix this. Contractor is stating that it could be a voltage problem with National Grid. Not sure that is the problem.
      - **Main Entry Doors:** Still problematic. Have asked that contractor replace all of the hardware.

- **Exterior Flashing/Drip Edge:** Flashing around gym roof still flying off. Roofing company has been fixing it piecemeal. Now want them to fix all flashing. Also, water buildup around gym. Drip edge installed incorrectly. They will fix that.

k) **Special Community Building/Fundraising Days:** In conjunction with cultural study, we're asking students and staff to come in dressed a certain way (Crazy Hat day, Team Colors day, etc.). Those not participating will be encouraged to donate funds to Heifer International instead. (Actually everyone will be encouraged to donate). A Rowe resident has offered to match all contributions we receive.

5. **Financial Statement:** FY2015 statement as of Nov 20th was presented.
   - **2250116 – Technology Other:** $10,555.75 was for purchase of Redeker (budgeted $2000 for line item)
   - **2310111 – Specialists Salaries:** CG stated that portion of specialist's salary has not been deducted from this line item yet. It's coming out of regular teachers at this point. Adjustment will be made.
   - **2325113 - Substitute Salaries:** We are over for the year already. A teacher had an injury (non-work related) that required unexpected absence. Perhaps increase this line item for FY2016.
   - **2357115 – Prof. Dev. Supplies:** Over budget already. This may be a grant-related item. CG will make adjustments to grant line items once all grant information is received. Will research for next meeting.
   - **2400 – Instructional Materials/Equip:** Already overspent by >$7,000. Had to purchase SPED materials. Had been using Hawlemont's. BK will research for next meeting. LDB stated that we need to get a handle on where we are financially. We are seeing savings but we've dipped into that considerably already. SZ mentioned that there may have been a few items that were missed when replacing items with insurance funds—which are now used up. It will be important to decide if items still needing replacement are one time purchases, or ongoing purchases. Janice Lapointe mentioned that when working on the cooking mini-course today there are only two burners in the project room. Could really use four burners. JL: It will be good to keep a wish list of items and perhaps later in the year they can be purchased. One-time items should not be confused with ongoing budget items. CG: we do need to look at grant money for salaries not accounted for yet. That will offset overages in some of these lines that are over budget. BK will work with CG on line items that are over. LDB: Need to track one-time costs due to administrative changes vs. recurring costs.

6. **Superintendent's Report:**
   a) **FY2016 Preliminary Budget:** JL presented preliminary proposed FY16 budget.
      - **PreK-6 budget** shows $16,871 increase. Salary increases have been input using same staff for next year. Uses offset of $39,000 in grant money
      - **Shared Services** budget section shows savings of $36,613 over this year FY15
      - **Total PreK-6 budget** FY16 $1,116,216 vs. FY15 $1,158,458
      - Copy of **5-yr transportation contract** is needed so data can be entered. FY15 is first year of that contract. LDB will get JL a copy.
      - **Tuition** for Mohawk and Tech is level funded for now. Need to calculate this. Two seniors are graduating, but we have a large class of 6th graders entering Mohawk/Tech.
      - **School Choice** receipts were level funded for now. Will update when figures known. There will be a $22,500 decrease this year due to student that left Rowe school.
      - JL will work with BK on budget for **Capital** items
      - One staff is planning on **retiring** at the end of this year. Future retirees need to be planned for also. It was mentioned that town may be working on this.
   b) **Mohawk Regional Plan** (see Chair's report.)
   c) **School of Choice Policy:** School Committee to declare open seats for ensuing year by May 1st. (Supt. needs to inform DOE by June 1st.) Adam Dupere advises that Item 4 (deadline for application submission) should be clarified. It was agreed to eliminate the first sentence. LDB asked that JL have Adam & Russell review policy again for next meeting. LDB stated that rather than referring to this document as "Draft" that it be replaced with wording "First Read *date*." SZ will make this change. Document for next meeting will be worded "Second Read *date*." JL will make the change to Item 4 and will forward document to Adam for final review.
   d) **Use of School Policy:** JL reported that Adam stated that overall all three documents are acceptable. Only potential issue is the restriction that only Rowe residents or groups sponsored by Rowe residents may use the

building/grounds. If the school is going to maintain such a restriction, it must be sure to consistently maintain that restriction. Note: The policy also allows parents/guardians of school students to use the building/grounds, so this would include Choice parents. SZ stated that the School Committee also had questions about liability. JL stated that the town's liability insurance covers use of the facilities. JL will ask Adam if the statement on the two applications that says *"I understand ...that I am responsible for any damages incurred..."* sufficiently protects the town.

e) **Policies/Policy Manual:** SZ asked what policies should be worked on next, and asked if anyone had a Policy Manual. BK stated that Judy Willis had a Rowe Policy Manual at the Central Office. He doesn't know if it made it to the Berkshire Central Office. LDB stated that she has a lot of policies, but not a policy book. CG stated that during her MASBO licensure program one of the tasks Suffolk had them do is a Policy Book. This will be helpful to review. BK asked if there was a Home School policy in the Rowe book. LDB does not recall. LDB stated that some draft policies had been worked on but not been finalized. SZ will follow up with Judy Willis.

f) **Propane Payment:** JL stated that a duplicate payment of $3,102.45 for propane had been made. CG stated that vendor returned the duplicate payment.

7. **Report of the Chair:**

a) **Signing of Treasury/Payroll Warrants:** There has been some difficulty in getting two signatures on the bi-weekly warrants. LDB recommended that all members review the warrants. The warrants are at the school from Friday morning until around noon on Monday. CG stated it would be preferable that the warrants be signed Mondays because occasionally there are changes to the payroll warrant once she reconciles with the actual payroll run Monday mornings at the town hall. When there are such changes she can fax or email the updated warrant sheet to the school on Monday morning. It was suggested that the School Committee members be given keys to the building so they can review/sign the warrants. [Note: SZ already has a key.] BK will find a spot somewhere near Laurie's desk to put the warrants. Both LM and SZ stated that they would like some sort of bi-weekly reminder on what days the warrants need signing. The next warrants will need to be signed Monday, Dec 15th. Alternate Mondays thereafter. (There may be exceptions for holiday weeks.)

b) **PO System:** CG stated that the purchase order system is in place via QuickBooks. (CG left the meeting at this time due to family matter.)

c) **Financial data and options re Rowe joining Mohawk 7-12:** LDB received notice that the Mohawk Budget Subcommittee was meeting on Dec 3rd and was asked if she or the Rowe school committee could attend. She did post a meeting for the Rowe SchCom at Mohawk for 5:00pm on Dec 3rd. SZ stated that she could be there. LDB also received notice that the Long Range Planning Committee will be giving a presentation to the Mohawk Committee on January 20th. Marilyn Wilson is the representative from Rowe. [This committee used to be called the Mohawk Municipal Advisory Committee.] They have been meeting for several months, and will present their findings on January 20th.

At the last meeting the assessment calculation done by MTRSD of FY15 with and without Rowe as a member town was given out. LDB stated that the committee needs to review and discuss the information. If Rowe were to join the district the document shows a decrease in cost to each member town and an increase to Rowe. Coupled with this it was stated at the last meeting that Rowe would also lose some c.70 state aid, which would go to Mohawk instead. LDB stated that this needs more explanation. SZ asked about the differences of tuitioning students vs. being a member town. The tuition rate is established each year by Mohawk. Rowe receives roughly a 9% discount on that rate and pays according to number of students enrolled that year. Mohawk member towns' charges are partially based on enrollment; however, a 5-year rolling enrollment average is used rather than single year enrollments. This is done to try to keep charges more consistent for the towns. The member towns also pay capital costs. SZ asked if Mohawk changes the tuition calculation agreement—like they've been talking about doing—shouldn't Rowe then be paying about the same amount as the other towns.

LDB stated that the only thing we've seen so far is that Mohawk hired Mark Abrahams to do a review of the tuition, and that report stated that Rowe should be paying a tuition rate more like $16K. The Mohawk committee's response at the time was that they thought it should be higher—but not that high. JL stated that

the other four towns of the NBSU all tuition their students for secondary education. Savoy tuitions to Adams. Clarksburg, Florida and Monroe tuition to Drury. Tuitions vary and are generally raised 2-3% each year. He stated that highest tuition is probably Williamstown which is $12-13K—plus SPED costs (Hancock and New Ashford are among the towns tuitioning to Williamstown). He doesn't know any towns that pay $16K. For a child on an IEP it would be about $16K. For a student needing a separate program it is usually about $21K. JL will research tuition costs further. Mohawk has set this year's rate at $12,149. With the discount, Rowe's rate is $11,044. Rowe does not pay SPED costs at Mohawk. At FC Tech Rowe is paying $17,000/student, plus SPED costs. [Note: The $17K includes transportation.]

LDB and SZ will attend the meeting Wednesday. LM may not attend due to work schedule. All committee members are open to see what Mohawk may offer.

d) **FY16 Superintendent/Central Office Services:** LDB stated that it's important that we begin having some discussions about FY16. LDB stated that everyone knows she had a lot of concerns about making the change of superintendent services, and even after the decision was made and SZ came on the committee LDB had asked for a motion that we postpone that until it could be looked at further. That vote did not go forward. She understands that SZ felt that the decision was made, but also that SZ felt it was important to look at how things are working, and that we not wait until the last minute. We needed to get into the school year and the new building to see how things were working. LDB knows it's been hard at this point. There hasn't been a lot of time to make an assessment, but we have to make some decisions—at least a decision moving forward on whether we would want to have the Mohawk superintendent provide any cost estimates or whether or not what criteria we want to set up to consider what the committee is going to do. LDB felt it Important to put this out there tonight so we can have some informed discussion about how we want to do the budget. Or if the assumption is this is the way the committee wants to go, then have reasons why we want to stay with NBSU. We don't have a lot of time. LDB says it's important to see whether or not we've seen any educational improvements. SZ proposed that we put together a list of criteria to use to evaluate the school system on—not just money, but all of the pieces. Also, how do you evaluate educational improvement? It's always one of the questionable things. And who do you want to ask? Just the three of us? The principal? The teachers? If you are going to do it you should be thorough and ask enough people so that it becomes a valid evaluation. She thinks it needs to be beyond just the committee in order to do a good evaluation. SZ is willing to put together a criteria list to start discussion if the committee wishes to go that route. LDB said ultimately it is the committee that has to make the decision, but she feels the same way. We are saving, but are we seeing an educational benefit? She does feel that not having our elementary students connected with Mohawk is creating more work to try to make sure our kids are being included and integrated into Mohawk well. It's hard to do that. We're disconnected and not doing things we Mohawk anymore. BK stated that we're doing a musical with Mohawk. LDB: How are we preparing out students for the curriculum at Mohawk? SZ: That is something that BK and teachers will have to assess. If we don't do this then the committee will be right back where we were last year. It needs to be based on facts—not personalities. As a committee we need to agree what the criteria will be, and we need to be fair and objective. LM thought this was a good idea, but stated it will be hard without a whole year of data and experience. On top of all of that we have a new school in the mix which may slant things. What items may be due to the new facility and just moving back in? SZ: It will be important to report all of this information to the town as well. SZ will work on a criteria list for the next meeting.

8. **Unfinished Business:**
   a) **Missing Minutes:** All missing minutes have been submitted and approved.
   b) **Mohawk Youth Baseball League:** No discussion/no action.
   c) **Facilities Systems Representative:** No discussion/no action.
   d) **Pine Boards:** LDB provided pictures of milled boards. Need to decide what should be done with the boards. JL thought that perhaps students can think of ideas for the boards.

9. **New Business:**
   a) **Letter from non-teaching staff re FY2015 pay:** Non-teaching staff met with JL about two weeks ago to present a letter concerning their pay increase for FY2015. When JL first came on board he found out that the non-teaching staff were to get their employment agreement letters by the end of June for the ensuing year, and he was told by BK that they were to get a 2.5% increase for FY15, which is the number that BK believed was in the budget. Individual agreement letters were then prepared and signed between administration and all non-teaching staff informing them that they were getting a 2.5% salary/wage increase for FY2015. In discussion with the school committee at the July meeting it was stated that the FY15 salary/wage increase had not been determined, and the committee was waiting to see what the new teachers' contract would be. BK was then told to get the agreement letters back, and to inform the staff that they would have to wait until the teachers' negotiations were done. Apparently they were under the impression that they were still going to get the 2.5%--but that they just had to wait until the teachers' contract was negotiated. Subsequently the teachers' contract was negotiated at 1.5% for FY2015. BK and JL discussed it with the non-teaching staff and they responded with their letter stating that they believed they should get the 2.5% they had originally been given. BK and JL discussed the matter, and then JL discussed it with Adam. Adam stated that they have an excellent case, and that if they were part of MTA there would be no discussion—we would need to give them the 2.5%. BK and JL met with all of the non-teaching staff and talked about the possibility that if they get the 2.5% this year, then they may get less next year. They decided that they did want the 2.5% this year, and JL told them they he would bring their request to the school committee. JL did state that it brings up the fact that we don't have any agreements or documents or policies stating what their benefits are, what the pay scale is, holidays, etc. This should be addressed. The 1.5% increase would be a $2,102 budget increase; a 2.5% increase would be $3,503. Net difference is $1401. SZ made a motion to change the staff salary/wage increase for FY2015 from 1.5% to 2.5%, due to the fact that they previously had signed agreements for the 2.5%. LM seconded motion and it passed unanimously (3/0/0). [The pay will be retroactive to July 1st for Laurie Laffond and Tim Schramel, and retroactive to the start of the new school year for the remaining staff.]
   b) **Sick Bank:** Tabled. Awaiting information from Barbara Griffin. Information will be put in Dec 22nd packet.
   c) **Payroll Questions:** LDB handled before the meeting with Sue Gleason and CG.

10. **Action Items:** None

11. **Next Meeting:** Monday, December 22nd at 5:30pm. Mainly discuss FY16 budget.

12. **Subcommittee Reports:** None

13. **Executive Session:** None

14. **Adjournment:** LM made motion to adjourn meeting at 8:36pm. SZ seconded motion; passed unanimously (3/0/0).

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Miller,

Signature: _____
Lisa Danek-Burke, Chair

Date Approved: 12-22-14

Meeting Packet:

- Agenda
- Minutes: Oct 27, 2014; Nov 13, 2012; Sept 19, 2012
- Principal's Report – dated 12/1/2014
- FY2015 P&L Budget vs. Actual as of 11/20/2014
- FY2016 Preliminary Budget
- School Choice Policy – "First Read"
- School Use Policy – "First Read"
- MTRSD Assessment Calculation with Rowe – FY15 Budget
- Pine Boards photo
- Letter from Non-teaching staff re FY2015 salary/wage increase
- Recorder article 10/11/14 *"Study shows benefits if Rowe joins Mohawk"*

ROWE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Monday, December 1, 2014
5:30pm at the Rowe School
Rowe, MA

I. **Call to order**

II. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from October 27, 2014,October 8, 2014,November 13,2012,September 19, 2012.

III. **Audience of Citizens:**

IV. **Principal's Report:** Principal Bill Knittle will be present to discuss pertinent items and concerns relative to staffing, physical plant, programs, and overall operations of the Rowe School.

V. **Financial Statement:** An FY15 Financial Statement dated July 1, 2014 through November 20, 2014 was included in packets.

VI. **Superintendent's Report:**

A. FY 16 Budget
B. Mohawk Regional Plan
C. School Choice and Use Policies
D. Propane Payment

VIII. **Report of the Chair:**

A. Signing of Warrants
B. Financial data and options Re: Rowe joining Mohawk 7-12
C. FY 16 Superintendent/Central Office services

IX. **Unfinished Business:** Missing Minutes, Mohawk Youth Baseball League, Facilities Systems Representative, Pine Boards.

X. **New Business:** Classified Sick Bank, Payroll Questions

XI. **Action Items:**

A.

XII. **Subcommittee Reports:**

A. Policy
B. Transportation
C. School Building Committee

XIII. **Correspondence/ Handouts:** School Choice and Use Policies, Updated Financial Statement, October 27, 2014 Minutes, October 8, 2014, November 13, 2012, September 19, 2012, Principal Report, Letter from Classified Employees, MTRSD Assessment Calculation, Pine Logs Handout, Recorder Article.

XIV. **Executive Session:** If necessary

XV. **Adjournment**

APPLICATION FOR USE OF FACILITIES
Rowe School

Organization_____ **Person Responsible**_____

Address_____

Phone_____ **Date of Request**_____

Email_____

DATE OF USE :_____

TIME OF USE: From_____ **To**_____

PURPOSE OF USE: _____

ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE: _____

AGE GROUP: _____

FACILITIES REQUESTED:

_____ **Library**

_____ **Project Room**

_____ **Gymnasium**

_____ **Gymnasium with Stage (performing events only)**

_____ **Outdoor Grounds**

_____ **Cafeteria only**

_____ **Cafeteria with kitchen for serving only***

_____ **Cafeteria with kitchen for preparation and serving***

I agree to abide by the requirements set forth in the Use of Rowe School Facility Policy and by the Principal. I understand that enforcement of building and ground use requirements is my responsibility and that I am responsible for any damages incurred during the event.

Signed by:**_____ **Date:** _____

*** Requires Certified Serve Safe Personnel on duty**

**** Must be a Rowe Resident or Rowe School Parent/Guardian**

APPROVAL GRANTED:_____**(principal)**

Route _____ **Custodian**

_____ **Cafeteria**

_____ **Secretary**

December, 2014

USE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT
Rowe School

Organization_____ Person Responsible_____

This form is only to be used as an addendum to the *Application for Use of School Facilities*. Any questions regarding equipment use should be discussed with the Principal.

Please describe below the equipment that you are interested in using and how you plan to use it.

I agree to abide by the requirements set forth by the Principal in using the equipment described above. I understand that enforcement of proper use and care of this equipment is my responsibility and that I am responsible for any damages incurred to it during the event.

Signed by**:_____ Date: _____

** Must be a Rowe Resident or Rowe School Parent/Guardian

APPROVAL GRANTED:_____(principal)

Route _____ Custodian
_____ Cafeteria
_____ Secretary

Draft 11/18/14

Rowe School
Use of Facilities Policy

The policy of the Rowe School is to make its building and grounds available to the community whenever possible for educational, recreational, and civic purposes.

1. Any individual or group wishing to use the Rowe School building or grounds must submit to the Principal an *Application for Use of School Facilities Request Form* (available at the school or online at www.roweschool.org).*

2. Any group wishing to use the Rowe School building or grounds must be sponsored by either a Rowe resident or be a school student's parent/guardian. The individual listed as "person responsible" on the application form, must be present during the entire time of use.

3. The *Application for Use of School Facilities Request Form* shall be submitted to the Rowe School Principal at least two weeks prior to use. The Principal is responsible for approving all requests and for ensuring individuals/groups fully understand which building areas may be used, proper access and egress from the building, and securing the building after use.

4. Individuals or groups using the Rowe School building or grounds must adhere to the following regulations:

a. Only those areas of the facility approved for use by the Principal may be used.

b. All areas of use must be returned to the condition in which they were found. If areas of use are not left in a satisfactory condition, a custodial fee of $25/hr will be assessed for cleaning.

c. Any use of the Rowe School building or grounds must meet current fire and safety regulations.

c. All garbage/trash and personal items must be removed from the site the day of the event.

d. Appropriate adult supervision must be provided for all student-aged groups. A minimum of (1) adult must be present at all times for every 10 children under the age of eighteen (18) years old.

d. No alcoholic beverages are to be served or consumed in the Rowe School building or grounds.

e. No smoking is permitted in the Rowe School building or grounds.

f. The school building must be left locked and windows secured as specified by the Principal.

f. Keys must be promptly returned to the Principal by the next school day following use.

g. No school equipment shall be used, unless expressly indicated in writing, by the Principal on an approved *Equipment Use Form* (available at Rowe School or online at www.roweschool.org)

h. Any use of the gymnasium requires appropriate footwear be worn.

* Rowe Town Committees wishing to use the facilities for meetings can do so by securing permission with the Principal without completing an application form.

Rowe School
School Of Choice Policy

It is the policy of The Rowe School to admit non-resident students under the terms of the Inter-district School Choice Law (referenced below).

1. The Rowe School Committee (the Committee) votes annually on the decision whether to continue to be a school choice receiving district. If consideration is being given to withdraw from the provision of the choice law, the Committee shall hold a public meeting by June 1st to review this decision.

2. The Committee reserves the right to designate a maximum number of available school choice seats for an upcoming year. The number of school choice seats available will be based on the current and/or projected number of students in each multi-grade classroom.

3. The number of school choice seats available will be declared by the School Committee no later than May 1st of every year.

4. The deadline for submitting school choice applications for the next school year shall be the last school or business day of each month. The deadline for submitting school choice applications for admission for the current school year is the last school day of each week.

5. Any sibling of a school choice student already attending the Rowe School shall receive priority for admission.

6. The School Committee affirms its position that it shall not discriminate in the admission of any child on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, ancestry, athletic performance, physical handicap, special need, academic performance or proficiency in the English language. The selection of non-resident students for admission shall be in the form of a random drawing when the number of requests exceeds the number of available spaces. If such a random drawing is required it shall take place prior to July 1st. If an additional drawing is required it shall take place prior to November 1st.

7. Any student who is accepted for admission under the provisions of this policy is entitled to remain in the District until graduation from Rowe Elementary School except if there is a lack of funding of the program.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. Title XII, 71:6; 71:6A; 76:6; 76:12; 76:12B
BESE Regulations 603 CMR 26:00

9:45 AM
11/20/14
Accrual Basis

Rowe Pub School
Budget vs. Actual
July 1, 2014 through November 20, 2014

	Jul '14 - Jun 15	Budget	$ Over Budget	% of Budget
1110 · School Committee				
1110112 · Salary	600.00	1,800.00	-1,200.00	33.33%
1110116 · Advert/Bids/Print	1,213.10	3,425.00	-2,211.90	35.42%
Total 1110 · School Committee	1,813.10	5,225.00	-3,411.90	34.7%
1210 · Superintendent's Office				
1210111 · Superintendent	7,068.49	16,707.00	-9,638.51	42.31%
1210112 · Clerical Salaries	4,627.79	11,598.00	-6,970.21	39.9%
1210115 · Office Supplies	21.67	300.00	-278.33	7.22%
1210116 · Other Expense	2,524.06	3,327.00	-802.94	75.87%
121A116 · Travel Out of District	0.00	336.00	-336.00	0.0%
Total 1210 · Superintendent's Office	14,242.01	32,268.00	-18,025.99	44.14%
1400 · Finance and Admin Services				
1430 · Legal Services				
1430114 · Contracted Services	825.00	3,600.00	-2,775.00	22.92%
Total 1430 · Legal Services	825.00	3,600.00	-2,775.00	22.92%
1450 · Administrative Technology				
1450111 · Administrative Tech Salary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
1450115 · Supplies	0.00	120.00	-120.00	0.0%
1450116 · Other	0.00	203.00	-203.00	0.0%
Total 1450 · Administrative Technology	0.00	323.00	-323.00	0.0%
Total 1400 · Finance and Admin Services	825.00	3,923.00	-3,098.00	21.03%
2110 · Supervisory - Special Education				
2110111 · Admin of Special Education	5,193.21	12,275.00	-7,081.79	42.31%
2110112 · Secretary	680.42	2,058.00	-1,377.58	33.06%
2110114 · Sped Medicaid Filing Fees	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00	0.0%
2110115 · Supplies	27.68	375.00	-347.32	7.38%
2110116 · Other	62.74	525.00	-462.26	11.95%
211A116 · Travel	24.00	203.00	-179.00	11.82%
Total 2110 · Supervisory - Special Education	5,988.05	16,936.00	-10,947.95	35.36%
2200 · School/Building Leadership				-
2210 · School Leadership				
2210111 · Principal	30,290.28	79,719.00	-49,428.72	38.0%
2210112 · Principal's Secretary	14,336.74	34,470.00	-20,133.26	41.59%
2210115 · Principal's Supplies/contracts	1,787.75	2,000.00	-212.25	89.39%
2210116 · Principal's Other	75.48	1,050.00	-974.52	7.19%

Rowe Pub School
Budget vs. Actual
July 1, 2014 through November 20, 2014

	Jul '14 - Jun 15	Budget	$ Over Budget	% of Budget
221011A · Principal's Travel	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
Total 2210 · School Leadership	46,490.25	118,239.00	-71,748.75	39.32%
2220 · Curriculum Leader				
2220115 · Salaries	134.62	2,100.00	-1,965.38	6.41%
Total 2220 · Curriculum Leader	134.62	2,100.00	-1,965.38	6.41%
2250 · Principal's Technology				
2250115 · Supplies	297.54	2,000.00	-1,702.46	14.88%
2250116 · Other	10,555.75	2,000.00	8,555.75	527.79%
Total 2250 · Principal's Technology	10,853.29	4,000.00	6,853.29	271.33%
Total 2200 · School/Building Leadership	57,478.16	124,339.00	-66,860.84	46.23%
2300 · Instruction - Teaching Services				
2305 · Teachers - Classroom				
Teachers - Regular	118,773.66	370,510.00	-251,736.34	32.06%
Total 2305 · Teachers - Classroom	118,773.66	370,510.00	-251,736.34	32.06%
2310 · Teachers - Specialists				
Salaries	0.00	53,639.00	-53,639.00	0.0%
2310111 · Professional Salaries	66.35			
Total 2310 · Teachers - Specialists	66.35	53,639.00	-53,572.65	0.12%
2320 · Medical Therapeutic Services				
2320111 · Speech/ OT/ PT Salaries	7,210.32	25,280.00	-18,069.68	28.52%
Total 2320 · Medical Therapeutic Services	7,210.32	25,280.00	-18,069.68	28.52%
2325 · Substitutes				
2325113 · Salaries	2,607.29	3,720.00	-1,112.71	70.09%
Total 2325 · Substitutes	2,607.29	3,720.00	-1,112.71	70.09%
2330 · Teacher Aides				
2330113 · Salaries	18,195.47	53,805.00	-35,609.53	33.82%
Total 2330 · Teacher Aides	18,195.47	53,805.00	-35,609.53	33.82%
Total 2300 · Instruction - Teaching Services	146,853.09	506,954.00	-360,100.91	28.97%
2340 · Library				
2340113 · Librarian Salary	2,309.17	10,606.00	-8,296.83	21.77%
2340115 · Library Supplies	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
Total 2340 · Library	2,309.17	11,606.00	-9,296.83	19.9%
2350 · Professional Developement				
2357 · Prof Development Expenses				
2357115 · Supplies	32.97	300.00	-267.03	10.99%

Rowe Pub School
Budget vs. Actual
July 1, 2014 through November 20, 2014

	Jul '14 - Jun 15	Budget	$ Over Budget	% of Budget
2357116 · Other	3,544.90	3,250.00	294.90	109.07%
Total 2357 · Prof Development Expenses	3,577.87	3,550.00	27.87	100.79%
Total 2350 · Professional Developement	3,577.87	3,550.00	27.87	100.79%
2400 · Instructional Materials & Equip				
2410 · Texts and related materials	6,754.20	5,750.00	1,004.20	117.46%
2430114 · Contract serv/Tools of Mind	0.00	2,500.00	-2,500.00	0.0%
2430115 · General Classroom Supplies/ Reg	7,301.52	7,500.00	-198.48	97.35%
243011S · Class Room Supplies Sped	2,668.69	1,000.00	1,668.69	266.87%
2451 · Instructional Tech				
2451112 · Instructional Tech Stipend	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
2451113 · Instructional Tech Salary	897.48	3,889.00	-2,991.52	23.08%
2451114 · Tech Utilities	0.00	2,500.00	-2,500.00	0.0%
2451115 · Instruction Tech Supplies	4,429.97	2,500.00	1,929.97	177.2%
2451116 · Instructional Tech Other	0.00	3,600.00	-3,600.00	0.0%
Total 2451 · Instructional Tech	5,327.45	12,989.00	-7,661.55	41.02%
Total 2400 · Instructional Materials & Equip	22,051.86	29,739.00	-7,687.14	74.15%
2440 · Instructional Service, Other				
2440113 · Instructional Field Trip Transp	0.00	2,900.00	-2,900.00	0.0%
2440115 · Instructional Summer Tutoring	2,622.13	4,500.00	-1,877.87	58.27%
2440116 · Instructional Field Trip Other	1,903.77	10,970.00	-9,066.23	17.35%
Total 2440 · Instructional Service, Other	4,525.90	18,370.00	-13,844.10	24.64%
2700 · Guidance Counseling and Testing				
2710 · Guidance				
2710111 · Salaries	1,465.14	13,011.00	-11,545.86	11.26%
2710 · Guidance - Other	1,509.00			
Total 2710 · Guidance	2,974.14	13,011.00	-10,036.86	22.86%
Total 2700 · Guidance Counseling and Testing	2,974.14	13,011.00	-10,036.86	22.86%
3200 · Health Program				
3200115 · Supplies	2,093.21	2,000.00	93.21	104.66%
320A111 · School Nurse	18,673.27	71,133.00	-52,459.73	26.25%
Total 3200 · Health Program	20,766.48	73,133.00	-52,366.52	28.4%
3300 · TRANSPORTATION				
3300113 · Transportation/ Late Bus	3,672.00	15,000.00	-11,328.00	24.48%
3300114 · Bus Contracts - Elementary	16,335.00	54,450.00	-38,115.00	30.0%
330A114 · Bus Contracts - Mohawk/Tech	5,445.00	54,450.00	-49,005.00	10.0%

Rowe Pub School
Budget vs. Actual
July 1, 2014 through November 20, 2014

	Jul '14 - Jun 15	Budget	$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Total 3300 · TRANSPORTATION	25,452.00	123,900.00	-98,448.00	20.54%
3400 · Food Services				
3400114 · Staff	6,305.33	17,853.00	-11,547.67	35.32%
3400115 · Supplies	2,796.35	7,500.00	-4,703.65	37.29%
Total 3400 · Food Services	9,101.68	25,353.00	-16,251.32	35.9%
4000 · Operation and Maint of Plant				
4110 · Custodial Services				
4110113 · Salaries	11,160.80	33,714.00	-22,553.20	33.1%
4110115 · Supplies	712.36	5,000.00	-4,287.64	14.25%
Total 4110 · Custodial Services	11,873.16	38,714.00	-26,840.84	30.67%
4120 · Fuel				
4120116 · Appropriation	0.00	8,000.00	-8,000.00	0.0%
Total 4120 · Fuel	0.00	8,000.00	-8,000.00	0.0%
4130 · Utilities				
4130116 · Telephone	1,474.31	3,000.00	-1,525.69	49.14%
413A116 · Electricity	1,889.61	10,000.00	-8,110.39	18.9%
Total 4130 · Utilities	3,363.92	13,000.00	-9,636.08	25.88%
4210 · Maintenance of Grounds				
4210116 · Appropriation	0.00	600.00	-600.00	0.0%
Total 4210 · Maintenance of Grounds	0.00	600.00	-600.00	0.0%
4220 · Maintenance of Buildings				
4220115 · Supplies	0.00	2,500.00	-2,500.00	0.0%
4220116 · Other	397.04	3,400.00	-3,002.96	11.68%
Total 4220 · Maintenance of Buildings	397.04	5,900.00	-5,502.96	6.73%
4230 · Maintenance of Equipment				
4230116 · Local	267.25	3,000.00	-2,732.75	8.91%
423A116 · Union	37.64	758.00	-720.36	4.97%
Total 4230 · Maintenance of Equipment	304.89	3,758.00	-3,453.11	8.11%
Total 4000 · Operation and Maint of Plant	15,939.01	69,972.00	-54,032.99	22.78%
5200 · Employee Benefits				
5200116 · Medical	3,797.51	11,521.00	-7,723.49	32.96%
Total 5200 · Employee Benefits	3,797.51	11,521.00	-7,723.49	32.96%
7300 · Improvement of Equipment				

Rowe Pub School
Budget vs. Actual
July 1, 2014 through November 20, 2014

	Jul '14 - Jun 15	Budget	$ Over Budget	% of Budget
General - Local	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
General - Union	0.00	374.00	-374.00	0.0%
Total 7300 · Improvement of Equipment	0.00	374.00	-374.00	0.0%
7400 · Replacement of Equipment				
740A116 · Appropriation - Union	0.00	876.00	-876.00	0.0%
Total 7400 · Replacement of Equipment	0.00	876.00	-876.00	0.0%
9100 · Tuition				
9100.6A · Middle School & High School	0.00	349,000.00	-349,000.00	0.0%
Total 9100 · Tuition	0.00	349,000.00	-349,000.00	0.0%
	337,695.03	1,420,050.00	-1,082,354.97	23.78%
TOTAL	**-337,695.03**	**-1,420,050.00**	**1,082,354.97**	**23.78%**

Rowe Elementary School – Principal's Report
School Committee Meeting – December 1, 2014

Academics:

- Classrooms
- Report Cards
- Cultural Study - Ghana

School Based Activities:

- Americorps members
- Collaboration
- All School meetings

Building, Staffing and Professional Development/Training:

- Professional Development Day - Friday 10/31
- Professional Learning Days - Ed. Eval., 11/19, upcoming: Inspiration, 12/3, Ed. Eval 12/10, PARCC, 12/17
- Notification system
- Safety Plans
- Heating, Doors, Flashing,

School Calendar:

December
1, 2, 4 - Mon., Tues., Thurs., Mini Courses, starting at 1:30
3 - Professional Learning Day, 1:50 release
4 - Thursday, Community Luncheon, 12 pm
5 - Friday, presentation on Ghana, 2:30 in the lobby
8-12 - Special Community Building/Fundraising Days
9 - Tuesday, Cultural Study Luncheon, 12 pm
10 - Professional Learning Day, 1:50 release
11 - Thursday, Cultural Study Performance, 6:30 pm
17 - Professional Learning Day, 1:50 release
23 - Last day of school before Holiday break, full day

John Lev, Superintendent of Schools November 11, 2014
William Knittle, Principal Rowe Elementary School
Lisa Danek-Burke, Lisa Miller, Sue Zavotka: School Board Members Rowe Elementary School

Dear Superintendent Lev, Principal Knittle, School Board Members, and Select board Members,

We are writing to express our discontent with our contracts. In June of 2014 we were provided with contracts to sign. Those contracts provided us with a 2.5% raise effective for school year 2014-2015. We signed those contracts in good faith anticipating that those raises would occur. We also used that information to make financial decisions dependent upon our income. Imagine our surprise when we were asked to sign new contracts at the end of October 2014. These contracts also indicated a decrease in our pay from our previously signed contracts. Instead our raises were to be 1.5%. As far as we knew the original contracts we signed were legal and legitimate.

Many of us had inquired why our paychecks did not reflect our increased pay in September and October. We were told that our paychecks wouldn't reflect our raises until the professional staff signed their contract. While we couldn't see the relationship between the professional staff contract and our contracts we didn't question it. We were in a new school district and a new school. There were a lot of changes occurring. It seemed reasonable to assume that accounting wanted to take on all the new raises at the same time. We were given the impression that our pay would be retroactive. At no time were we informed that our previous contracts were not going to be honored and that our expected pay was instead going to be decreased.

When we were asked to sign the new contracts many of us did primarily because we thought we would not get paid if we didn't. Some of us were afraid we would be at risk for losing our jobs if we did not sign them. We were not informed why our anticipated pay was decreased.

We are dedicated and responsible employees. Many of us volunteered work hours getting the new school ready for this year for the benefit of our students and our community. We are proud of our school and our work. This, however, makes us feel disrespected and demoralized. Obviously something went wrong but we did not do anything wrong and do not feel that we should be penalized for such an egregious mistake, if that is what occurred. We are asking that the original contracts we signed in June be honored and implemented.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Gail May Traci Baines Jennifer Mie
Yauri Yaeck Kimberly Celli
[illegible] Carol L. Twitty

Mohawk Trail Regional School District

ASSESSMENT CALCULATION WITH ROWE - FY15 BUDGET

	FY15 APPROVED BUDGET	FY15 INCLUDING ROWE	Change
OPERATING BUDGET (NOT INCLUDING CAPITAL)			
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET (Operating & Revolving)	$ 17,718,591	$ 17,773,041	$ 54,450
NET CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR	$ 361,285		
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR	2.08%		
BUDGETED TO REVOLVING ACCOUNT REVENUES	$ 937,085	$ 937,085	$ -
REVENUE			
CHAPTER 70 STATE AIDE REVENUE	$ 5,897,844	$ 5,948,705	$ 50,861
MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT REVENUE	$ 125,000	$ 125,000	$ -
CHARTER SCHOOL REIMBURSEMENT	$ 120,000	$ 120,000	$ -
TUITION REVENUE	$ 264,000	$ -	$ (264,000)
INTEREST INCOME	$ 20,000	$ 20,000	$ -
TOTAL REVENUE	6,426,844	6,213,705	$ (213,139)
USE OF E&D RESERVE FUNDING	300,000	300,000	
NET SCHOOL SPENDING	$ 15,715,462	$ 15,715,462	
NET SCHOOL SPENDING MINUS REVENUE	$ 8,988,618	$ 9,201,757	$ 213,139
MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	$ 6,365,060	$ 6,624,711	$ 259,651
ABOVE MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	$ 2,623,558	$ 2,577,047	$ (46,511)
TRANSPORTATION BUDGET	$ 1,066,044	$ 1,120,494	$ 54,450
CHAPTER 71 TRANSPORTATION REVENUE*(YEAR 2)	$ 450,000	$ 482,670	$ 32,670
TOTAL TRANSPORTATION ASSESSMENT	$ 616,044	$ 637,824	$ 21,780
TOTAL OPERATING ASSESSMENT	$ 9,604,662	$ 9,839,581	$ 234,919
NET CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR	$ 311,506		
OPERATING ASSESSMENT -- PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR	3.4%		
CAPITAL BUDGET	$ 331,239	$ 331,239	
MARY LYON REVENUE	$ 41,884	$ 41,884	
TOTAL CAPITAL REVENUE	$ 44,505	$ 44,505	
NET CAPITAL ASSESSMENT	$ 286,734	$ 286,734	
TOWN ASSESSMENTS			
ASHFIELD			
MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	$ 1,350,493	$ 1,350,493	
OPERATING ASSESSMENT PERCENTAGE	18.50%	18.22%	
ABOVE MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	$ 485,358	$ 469,538	
TRANSPORTATION ASSESSMENT	$ 113,968	$ 116,212	
TOTAL OPERATING ASSESSMENT	$ 1,949,819	$ 1,936,242	
CAPITAL ASSESSMENT	$ 78,604	$ 78,604	
TOTAL ASSESSMENT	$ 2,028,423	$ 2,014,846	$ (13,577)

Mohawk Trail Regional School District

ASSESSMENT CALCULATION WITH ROWE - FY15 BUDGET

	FY15 APPROVED BUDGET	FY15 INCLUDING ROWE	Change
BUCKLAND			
MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	$ 1,252,868	$ 1,252,868	
OPERATING ASSESSMENT PERCENTAGE	20.73%	20.43%	
ABOVE MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	$ 543,864	$ 526,491	
TRANSPORTATION ASSESSMENT	$ 127,706	$ 130,307	
TOTAL OPERATING ASSESSMENT	$ 1,924,437	$ 1,909,666	
CAPITAL ASSESSMENT	$ 55,343	$ 55,343	
TOTAL ASSESSMENT	$ 1,979,780	$ 1,965,009	$ (14,771)
CHARLEMONT			
MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	$ 450,847	$ 450,847	
OPERATING ASSESSMENT PERCENTAGE	8.62%	7.91%	
ABOVE MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	$ 226,151	$ 203,844	
TRANSPORTATION ASSESSMENT	$ 53,103	$ 50,452	
TOTAL OPERATING ASSESSMENT	$ 730,101	$ 705,143	
CAPITAL ASSESSMENT	$ 18,378	$ 18,378	
TOTAL ASSESSMENT	$ 748,479	$ 723,521	$ (24,957)
COLRAIN			
MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	$ 1,036,377	$ 1,036,377	
OPERATING ASSESSMENT PERCENTAGE	19.12%	18.84%	
ABOVE MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	$ 501,624	$ 485,516	
TRANSPORTATION ASSESSMENT	$ 117,788	$ 120,166	
TOTAL OPERATING ASSESSMENT	$ 1,655,789	$ 1,642,059	
CAPITAL ASSESSMENT	$ 45,962	$ 45,962	
TOTAL ASSESSMENT	$ 1,701,751	$ 1,688,021	$ (13,730)
HAWLEY			
MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	$ 92,513	$ 92,513	
OPERATING ASSESSMENT PERCENTAGE	1.66%	1.53%	
ABOVE MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	$ 43,551	$ 39,429	
TRANSPORTATION ASSESSMENT	$ 10,226	$ 9,759	
TOTAL OPERATING ASSESSMENT	$ 146,290	$ 141,701	
CAPITAL ASSESSMENT	$ 3,455	$ 3,455	
TOTAL ASSESSMENT	$ 149,745	$ 145,156	$ (4,590)
HEATH			
MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	$ 491,735	$ 491,735	
OPERATING ASSESSMENT PERCENTAGE	8.78%	8.65%	
ABOVE MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	$ 230,348	$ 222,915	
TRANSPORTATION ASSESSMENT	$ 54,089	$ 55,172	
TOTAL OPERATING ASSESSMENT	$ 776,172	$ 769,821	
CAPITAL ASSESSMENT	$ 8,675	$ 8,675	
TOTAL ASSESSMENT	$ 784,847	$ 778,496	$ (6,351)

Mohawk Trail Regional School District

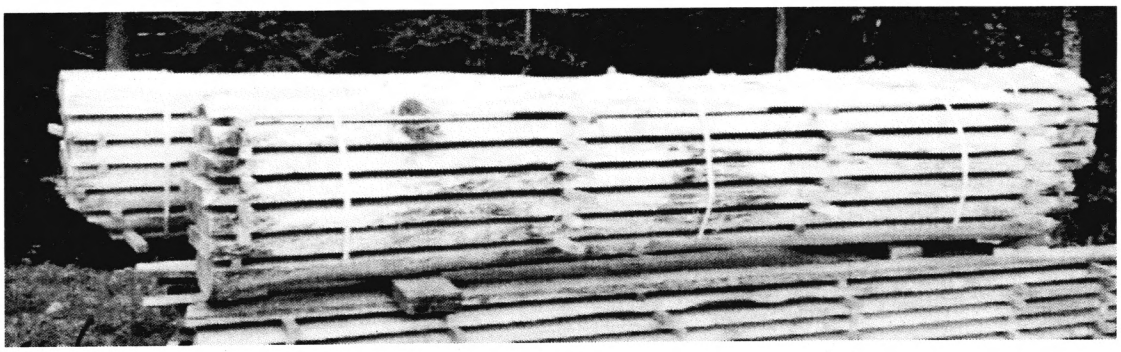
ASSESSMENT CALCULATION WITH ROWE - FY15 BUDGET

	FY15 APPROVED BUDGET	FY15 INCLUDING ROWE	Change
PLAINFIELD			
MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	$ 422,815	$ 422,815	
OPERATING ASSESSMENT PERCENTAGE	5.19%	5.11%	
ABOVE MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	$ 136,163	$ 131,687	
TRANSPORTATION ASSESSMENT	$ 31,973	$ 32,593	
TOTAL OPERATING ASSESSMENT	$ 590,950	$ 587,095	
CAPITAL ASSESSMENT	$ 27,473	$ 27,473	
TOTAL ASSESSMENT	$ 618,423	$ 614,568	$ (3,855)
ROWE			
MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	$ 264,000	$ 259,651	
OPERATING ASSESSMENT PERCENTAGE		2.17%	
ABOVE MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION		$ 55,922	
TRANSPORTATION ASSESSMENT	$ 54,450	$ 13,841	
TOTAL OPERATING ASSESSMENT		$ 329,413	
CAPITAL ASSESSMENT			
TOTAL ASSESSMENT	$ 318,450	$ 329,413	$ 10,963
SHELBURNE			
MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	$ 1,267,412	$ 1,267,412	
OPERATING ASSESSMENT PERCENTAGE	17.40%	17.14%	
ABOVE MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	$ 456,499	$ 441,706	
TRANSPORTATION ASSESSMENT	$ 107,192	$ 109,323	
TOTAL OPERATING ASSESSMENT	$ 1,831,103	$ 1,818,441	
CAPITAL ASSESSMENT	$ 48,845	$ 48,845	
TOTAL ASSESSMENT	$ 1,879,948	$ 1,867,286	$ (12,662)

Pine Logs from Trees cut on School Grounds

2 logs, bark removed, into 2" thick half-round boards, stickered, and banded

The logs are:
8 1/2' long, 18" dia. & 2" thick
12 1/2' long 14" dia. & 2" thick



Study shows benefits if Rowe joins Mohawk

RECORDER
10/11/14
P. C1

By DIANE BRONCACCIO
Recorder Staff

BUCKLAND — If Rowe joins the Mohawk Trail Regional School District as a Grade 7-12 member town, assessments for Mohawk's eight towns would collectively drop by about $94,500, according to assessment projections reported this week by Mohawk Superintendent Michael Buoniconti.

But for Rowe, the picture is more complicated: Mohawk membership would mean two school committee members could vote on decisions affecting the Mohawk Trail Regional School, and the town would gain $32,670 in busing aid from the state. But Rowe's assessment for roughly 25 middle- and high school students would be about $62,000 higher than it now pays at a discounted tuition rate of roughly $11,000 per student.

Rowe's tuition is likely to rise, however, even if it doesn't join the Mohawk district. In 2012, government finance specialist and consultant Mark D. Abrahams reported that Rowe pays about $4,000 less than the actual cost-per-student, because the 30-year-old regional agreement formula used to set Rowe's tuition didn't take into account other towns' state education and regional transportation money that reduced Mohawk's operating costs before the cost-per-student is calculated.

Besides discussion of Rowe joining the Mohawk district, talks between Mohawk and the Rowe school committee are planned this year to negotiate a more accurate tuition formula.

Buoniconti believes Rowe will ultimately save money by becoming a Mohawk member town, because the tuition will be going up. He said if Rowe's tuition goes up $3,000 per student, that $75,000 tuition "bump" would be higher than Rowe's calculated member-town assessment.

"Mohawk's true tuition rate, reflecting actual cost, is about $17,000 per student," he said.

Buoniconti said the financial impact of Rowe's joining Mohawk

See ROWE Page C3

Rowe: New dialogue

From Page C1

was completed by new Business Administrator Michael Kociela and presented this week to Mohawk's budget subcommittee. He said conversations about Rowe's joining Mohawk and about tuition adjustments to the regional agreement will start next month at Mohawk subcommittee meetings.

"The spirit of this dialogue is, we're trying to do this in a constructive way," Buoniconti said.

Relations improving

He noted that Rowe School Committee Chairwoman Lisa Danek-Burke has been attending Mohawk School Committee meetings and that relations between Mohawk and Rowe have been improving. "I think we're heading in the right direction," he said.

Last year, by a 2-1 vote, the Rowe School Committee hired a new school superintendent to run the Rowe Elementary School, a move that raised some concerns among residents whose children have ties to the Mohawk Trail Regional School District.

Rowe was a founding member of the Mohawk district, but had been asked to leave in 1982 because Rowe's high property tax revenues from utilities reduced Mohawk's eligibility for state aid. In return for leaving, Rowe was given a 10 percent tuition discount on the average cost-per-student calculation.

Buoniconti said each town's Chapter 70 state aid for education is separately calculated, so Rowe's tax base will not affect the state funding Mohawk receives for other towns.

In August, the Rowe School Committee voted unanimously to consider joining the Mohawk District for Grades 7-12 and sent a letter to Buoniconti saying that the Rowe committee looks "forward to a continuing relationship with you through the middle and high school programs."

You can reach Diane Broncaccio at: dbroncaccio@recorder.com or 413-772-0261, ext. 277

Greenfield Notebook

Absentee ballots available

GREENFIELD — Absentee ballots for the state election on Nov. 4 are now available in the town clerk's office. The last day to apply for one is Nov. 3 at noon.

Voters may vote at the town clerk's office in Town Hall on Court Square until that date and time or may request an absentee ballot by mail. Requests for a ballot should be submitted as soon as possible.

For more information, call the town clerk's office at 413-772-1555, Ext. 112.

Voter registration set for Wednesday

GREENFIELD — The last day to register to vote or change your address for the state election will be Wednesday. The town clerk's office will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. that day.

For more information, call the clerk's office at 413-772-1555, Ext. 112.

Deerfield Notebook

Voter registration set for Wednesday

DEERFIELD — On Nov. 4 for the state election, polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. in the Town Offices, 8 Conway St. in South Deerfield. The last day to register to vote is Wednesday from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. Absentee ballots are now available. The last day to request one is Nov. 3 until noon.

River Road closed Thursday, Friday, 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

DEERFIELD — River Road will be closed to through traffic between Beaver Drive and 55 River Road on Thursday and Friday from 6 a.m. until 4 p.m. The road will be open overnight.

Munson: Traffic issues

From Page C1

while cars and trucks pass them at 40 to 45 mph or more. The speed limit on Munson Street, which has no sidewalk, is 30 mph.

"It's a recipe for disaster," said Phil Brown, who lives across the street from Robbins Memorial Church at the corner of Fairview Street West and Munson Street.

Residents are also complaining that people are trespassing on their property, littering and urinating on lawns.

Residents said it makes some of them feel unsafe.

"Residents are fearing winter conditions, which will make things even worse," said Brown.

Karen Pierce, another Munson Street resident, said some residents have complained that strangers are opening their mailboxes and that cigarette butts are left on lawns and along the road.

James Walsh, who lives next to the church, said many people cut through the court parking lot and walk by his window, making him and his wife uncomfortable.

Another resident said she saw a man tossing his coffee cup lid to the ground and said she doesn't feel safe any longer.

The problem is, though the town has discussed the possibility of installing a sidewalk along the street, many residents said they don't want one.

Greenfield Department of Public Works Director Arthur Baker said it would cost the town about $125,000 to install a sidewalk there.

Mayor William Martin said the town could consider that, but that there are also "behavioral aspects" to the problem and that the town or a sidewalk can't control those.

Martin said he believes many of the pedestrians headed to the courthouse are homeless individuals and families headed to the courthouse or to the social services agencies for help.

He said many of the residents — some are seniors — don't want a sidewalk because it will take some of their property and they will have to shovel it, which they have never had to do.