MEETING MINUTES – FY2015
Rowe School Committee
Wednesday, April 8, 2015 – 9:00am – Rowe School

Present: Lisa Danek-Burke (LDB) and Susie Zavotka (SZ)
Absent: Lisa Miller (LM)
Also Present: Supt. Jon Lev (JL), Principal Bill Knittle (BK)

1. **Call to Order**: Chair Lisa Danek-Burke called the meeting to order at 9:06am.

2. **Approved FY2016 Revised Budget:** LDB reported that she and JL attended the FinCom last Friday (4/3/15) to discuss the budget cuts the town is requesting. The SchCom found out from Wayne Zavotka (who returned at the end of the March 30th meeting), that the town is looking for a 1.0% school budget reduction. This was reiterated at the 4/3 FinCom meeting. The $16,000 that we had proposed at our March 30th meeting was just a few cents shy of the 1.0% request. Even though all of the cuts are at the elementary level, it is a 1.0% reduction on the total (elementary & secondary) budget. JL presented to the FinCom the spreadsheet listing the $16,000 cuts. The proposed FY2016 budget request (w/o grants) is:

Elementary	$ 1,123,964
School Choice offset	(89,808)
Net Elementary	$ 1,034,156
Secondary	548,920
Total Request	$ 1,583,076

VOTE: SZ made a motion to accept the 4/6/2015 revision of the FY2016 school budget request in the amount of $1,583,076, which represents a $16,000 reduction of the $1,599,076 budget request approved at the 2/23/2015 School Committee meeting. LDB seconded the motion; motion passed (2/0/0).

3. **FY2016 Capital Stabilization Fund Requests:** JL reported that the FinCom thought that $35K for a new tractor was very high. They were ready to recommend $24K. In talking with BK we think we can cut some things that add to the price of the tractor. It is pretty clear that they feel we don't need all of the bells and whistles. LDB: In general there were FinCom members that felt that the town would feel the $35K is exorbitant; i.e., why do you need a backhoe attachment? Because we haven't had a chance to try out any tractors on the school slopes, are we sure it's the right tractor for us? Should we contract out mowing the hill this year to see what it actually takes? BK: We could buy the basic this year—a tractor with a mower deck and the snow blower attachment—and put the backhoe (about $5K) off until next year. We had John Deere visit the school last week. They measured the hill slopes and are now recommending a different machine. This made the JD a much more viable option. We're looking at $20K (Tractor $11,000, mower $2,000, snow blower $2,000, cab $4,600). All pricing we have been getting is from state contracts. SZ: I think we should go for the $24K now, and perhaps request the backhoe next year. BK: The Park may be interested in sharing at that time. LDB: FinCom said they would agree to put $24K on the warrant. It was good that you covered your bases by checking with other town departments, because that will probably come up at town meeting. VOTE: SZ made a motion to approve a request for FY2016 Capital Stabilization Funds in the amount of $28,599.72 for the purchase of a tractor with attachments, MacBooks, ChromeBooks and iPads. LDB seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously (2/0/0). JL, BK and the committee signed the Capital Request Form. LDB will hand carry it to the town hall today, as they are preparing the town meeting warrant today.

Tractor with attachments	$24,000.00
MacBooks	2,367.00
ChromeBooks	876.72
iPads	1,356.00
TOTAL REQUEST	$28,599.72

4. **Surplus Desks at Fire Station:** SZ sent an email to LDB stating that she met with Board of Selectmen to discuss the old school desks at the Fire Station. Selectman Walt Quist is anxious to get them out of there and is willing to take them apart to salvage the metal parts and dispose of the rest. LDB forwarded SZ's email to Russell Dupere explaining that the school committee had previously deliberated the desks and the school did not want them, and could he give us the proper language so that we can get rid of them. On the recommendation of Russell, the following action was taken: VOTE: LDB made a motion that the Rowe School Committee vote to dispose of surplus equipment; i.e., school desks currently being housed at the Fire House, which is valued at less than $10,000, by donating said equipment to the town of Rowe. SZ seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously (2/0/0).

5. **Additional School Choice Seats:** BK: We found out at the end of last week that we are likely going to be losing one—and possibly two—students going into 4th grade next year. I would like to open up one or two choice seats in 4th grade. That is the only grade that we did not declare any open seats in for next year. I spoke with the classroom teacher (Claudine) and she's fine with the idea. LDB: What are you recommending we declare? BK: Given that there are another two that possibly might be moving to Maine, I would opt for two seats. If those two don't move to Maine, then that's okay. We'll just have a bigger class. LDB: The benefit to declaring them now gives people who are interested more time to think about it. JL: Also, declaring them now allows us to advertise now. VOTE: SZ made a motion to declare two (2) school choice seats open in the 4th grade class for the 2015-16 school year. LDB seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously (2/0/0).

6. **2015-16 School Calendar:** BK had a question about the school calendar. By the time of your next meeting on April 27th, will the calendar be a moot point because Mohawk would have already voted on it? LDB: I was just going through minutes for an interim Mohawk meeting that I did not attend. They had presented the draft calendar and principals Jen LaGoy and Lynn Dole were talking to educators about getting feedback on the calendar. There is no reason why we can't also provide feedback. I would like to have you present that to the educators. BK: I haven't gotten any feedback from staff yet, and haven't found any mistakes, but have asked them again to get back to me. If they don't vote tonight, we can talk about it at the next meeting. LDB: It can't hurt for you to get feedback to them tomorrow. If they have voted and a problem is pointed out, they may revote it.

7. **School Building Committee:** SZ reported that the Selectmen did vote to extend the SBC's term through April 30, 2015. So, for the next month that committee will continue to oversee the library grant and capital campaign fund.

8. **Adjournment:** VOTE: SZ made motion to adjourn at 9:48am. LDB seconded motion; passed unanimously (2/0/0).

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Miller,

Signature: _____
Lisa Danek-Burke, Chair

Date Approved: April 27, 2015

Correspondence/Handouts:

- Agenda
- FY2016 School Budget – Rev 4/6/2015
- FY2016 Capital Stabilization Fund Request Form
- FY2015 Financial Statement as of 4/6/2015

ROWE SCHOOL DISTRICT

86 POND ROAD, ROWE, MA 01367
(413) 512-5100

NOTICE OF MEETING

ROWE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 8, 2015 – 9:00 a.m.
Rowe School, 86 Pond Road, Rowe, MA

Agenda

I. **Call to order**
II. **Request to Reduce FY 16 Budget/FY 16 Budget Reduction**
III. **Capital Stabilization Fund Requests**
IV. **Surplus Desks at Fire Station**
V. **Other**
VI. **Executive Session, if necessary**
VII. **Adjourn**

NEXT REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING:
Monday, April 27, 2015, 5:30 pm, Rowe Elementary School

The listing of matters is those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Posted: 04/06/2015

Any person may, pursuant to the provisions of the Open Meeting Law, audiotape an open meeting. As such, please be advised that this meeting may be taped by any person present.

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X. **Subcommittee Reports:**
   A. Policy - Use of Facilities Policy 2nd Read/Adoption
   B. School Building Committee - Fire Fund Expenditures Update
   C. Transportation
   D. Negotiations/Personnel - Support Staff Sick Bank

XI. **Other**

XII. **Executive Session, if necessary**

XIII. **Adjourn**

Correspondence/Handouts:

Meeting Minutes: 2/12/15, 2/16/15, 2/23/15
Approved FY 16 School Budget
Mohawk Letter to District Towns RE: Town Meeting Warrant Articles
Revised 2014-2015 School Calendar, Dated 3/9/15
Letter to Principal Knittle from Rowe Fire Department 3/19/15
Letter to Mohawk School Committee from Heath Select Board Chair Sheila Litchfield
Town Meeting Schedule
FY15 Financial Statement dated July 1, 2014 through March 20, 2015
Superintendent's Educator Evaluation Plan
Principal's Report
Draft 2015-2016 Calendar
Capital Request Form
Capital Request Bid Documents (Handout at Meeting)
Town Meeting Warrant Article Rowe Joining Mohawk 7-12
Use of Facilities Policy
Town Report 2014
Shelburne Falls & West County News Article: Mohawk sends $18.3 million operating budget to towns, 2/26/15
Greenfield Recorder Article: Mohawk puts free preschool in $18.3 million budget plan, 2/28/15
Greenfield Recorder Article: Mohawk towns to vote on school district changes in annual meetings, 2/28/15

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Posted: 03/24/2015

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