# MEETING MINUTES – FY2015
# Rowe School Committee
# Monday, May 11, 2015 – 5:30pm – Rowe School

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**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:** Rosie Gordon

1. **Call to Order**: Chair Lisa Danek-Burke called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

2. **Town Meeting Preparation:**
   A. **FY2016 Budget:** Handout for meeting was resubmitted with minor changes. The largest increase is the Mohawk costs: Mohawk tuition rate increased 13%, coupled with 10 students going to Mohawk next fall. Even though we have a large 6th grade graduating class, there wasn't enough of a decrease in student population to cut staff. Note: The warrant says "K-6 Budget." It should be PreK-6. LDB will read the article stating "PreK-6."
   B. **Capital Stabilization Fund Requests:** For some reason on the warrant the new tractor is to come from the Capital Stabilization Fund, but the IT Equipment is to come from the regular Stabilization Fund. It is unknown why the Select Board had worded the town meeting warrant this way. The IT Equipment is an item in the Capital Improvement Plan.
   C. **Rowe Joining Mohawk District Grade 7-12:** DESE states there need to be changes to the proposed agreement, and special legislation will be needed. See Action Item 3.A below.

3. **Action Item:**
   A. **Table article for Rowe Joining Mohawk District Grade 7-12:** DESE states that there need to be changes to the proposed agreement and special legislation will be needed. <u>VOTE: SZ made a motion that the School Committee vote to request at Annual Town Meeting that the Town pass over the Regional Agreement warrant article pertaining to Rowe joining the Mohawk District at the 7-12 grade level at the recommendation of Legal Counsel and based on concerns expressed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. LM seconded the motion and it passed unanimously (3/0/0).</u>

4. **Report of the Chair:**
   A. **Negotiation Subcommittee Information:** LDB gave to Vice Chair SZ files she had on contract information she has collected over the past 15 years of negotiating teachers' contracts. This is confidential information.
   B. **Policy Subcommittee Information:** LDB gave to Vice Chair SZ some files she had on policy information. She had given more comprehensive files to LM prior to this. She also gave to SZ information she has on the Code Finder Manual. CG then took this information to make a copy, and will then pass it on to SZ. Copies of policies kept at the school were lost in the fire. Judy Willis had copies of all Rowe policies at the Central Office that she was to turn over to NBSU. They have not yet been turned over. SZ will contact Judy Willis to get these policies.
   C. **Mohawk School Committee Representative:** LDB encouraged the new committee to appoint a representative to the Mohawk SC. She tried to go to at least every other meeting. Rowe rep can participate in discussions and deliberate, but cannot vote. SZ asked if the rep needs to be a Rowe SC member. LDB does not know. She said that may be spelled out in the regional agreement.
   D. **Central Office Services:** LDB encouraged the new committee to follow through on evaluation/review of the central office services. If the committee is looking for input from past committee members she would be happy to provide input. SZ thanked her for this.

5. **Other:** No items discussed.

6. **Audience:** Rosie Gordon had several questions:

Q. Why is the electric budget so high if we have a solar array?
A. The school is largely being heated with electric, so is saving on fuel oil/gas costs.

Q. Why did Cafeteria Salaries go up 17%?
A. Hired an additional part-time person, coupled with a 2.5% increase ($500) given to the Cafeteria Manager (same percentage as all support staff).

Q. Why did Software/Hardware go up 150%?
A. Purchase of 3-year contract for the Redeker "Track My Progress" software

Q. Why did SPED teacher salaries increase 30.8%?
A. Teacher received 1.5% increase (per contract), plus STEP increase; also, using regular school budget for salary rather than REAP grant funds that were used in the past.

Q. Why did textbooks increase 91%?
A. Updating math program which is 8 years old and doesn't align with CommonCore. Purchasing updated edition of our current program.

7. **Executive Session:** Not held.

8. **Upcoming Meetings:** NBSU meeting Monday, May 4th at 7:00pm at Savoy Elementary School; June regular meeting June 15th at 5:30pm – Rowe School

9. **Adjournment:** LM made motion to adjourn meeting at 6:30pm. SZ seconded motion; passed unanimously (3/0/0).

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Miller,

Signature: Susan Zavotka

Date Approved: 6/11/15

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**Correspondence/Handouts:**

- Agenda
- Updated Information sheet with FY16 school/budget information (handout)

# ROWE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

## NOTICE OF MEETING

### ROWE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Monday, May 11, 2015 – 5:30 p.m.**
**Rowe School, 86 Pond Road, Rowe, MA**

## Agenda

I. **Call to order**

II. **Town Meeting Preparation**
   A. FY 16 Budget
   B. Capital Stabilization Fund Requests
   C. Warrant Article Rowe joining Mohawk 7-12

III. **Chair Report**
   A. Negotiation Subcommittee Information
   B. Policy Subcommittee Information
   C. Mohawk School Committee Representative
   D. Central Office Services

IV. **Action Items:**
   A. **Vote to request at Annual Town Meeting that the Town pass over the Regional Agreement warrant article pertaining to Rowe joining the Mohawk District at the 7-12 grade level at the recommendation of Legal Counsel and based on concerns expressed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.**

V. **Other**

VI. **Executive Session:** per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21 - To review and approve minutes from May 29, June 23, July 28, Aug. 25, and Oct. 8, 2014 for executive session meetings held for the purposes of teacher contract negotiations

VII. **Adjourn**

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: 05/06/2015**

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.