

February 8, 2022

Deliberative Session Minutes

Scheduled Meeting Start Time: 7:00 PM.

Moderator Laughton gave extra time to allow everyone to sign in. There were 173 members of the public in attendance. 12 District administrators, 7 School Board members, and Attorney Diane Gorrow.

Moderator Laughton called the meeting to order at 7:28 PM. He asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance. He began by introducing School Board Member, Thomas Newkirk, who would be presenting the Distinguished Service Award to Kristin Forselius.

Tom recognized her service on various committees and her tenuous work for the district. Kristin thanked the audience and those who have worked with her in the various committees she has been on.

Moderator Laughton stated that we would be using Roberts Rules of Order and explained how members can participate in the meeting. He then read the posting notice and moved on to the posted warrant. He read articles 1 and 2 and introduced Brian Cisneros for Article 3.

Article 3 was moved by Brian Cisneros seconded by Tom Newkirk

Brian reviewed the first two slides for the article which reviewed the 2022-23 Board Goal and what the major expenditure increases would be for the FY23 Budget. At this point, Brian turned the podium over to Board Member, Yusi Turell, who presented the information on the DEIJ position. Brian returned to the podium and reviewed the remaining slides on Tax History, Summary of trust Funds, Apportionment and State Aid, Estimated Tax impact and explained the default budget.

Moderator Laughton called for discussion on this article.

Ruth Sample of Lee made a motion to amend Article 3 by reducing the budget by \$100,000 from the current figure of 52,133,325 amended to 52,033,325. The purpose would replace funding for the DEIJ Administrative position by reducing the budget by \$100,000 and keep \$30,000 for a contract position. Seconded by Dean Rubine.

Ruth spoke to the motion stating that she teaches the concepts of the duties a DEIJ position would support. She does not see the need to address this with a full-time position until an assessment is done. This could be done by a consultant. This is premature. She is proposing we keep \$30,000 to hire a consultant. Ruth handed the moderator the request for a secret ballot on this amendment.

Darren Keller of Lee agreed with the amendment. He cannot support this position. Should we spend money on this position or on our students.

Todd Allen of Lee asked to clarify the question that the amount presented is for salary and benefits. Todd pointed out that the District has hired several consultants in the past for work. This work cannot be done by a consultant. The District office is one of the smallest in the state. This is money well spent.

Peter Talban of Durham finds it astonishing that we are debating a position that has been taken for granted. Given our multi-cultural, multi-racial population, we want to be preparing our students for the future. This position would build the districts capacity.

Loren Selig asked if the request for a secret ballot can be negated. The moderator explained it cannot be challenged. Loren talked about the importance of the position. Students are asking questions and our teachers need to have the resources to answer these questions. Teachers need this support.

Yusi addressed the concern of the salary. She also explained the importance of this position. We have had consultants in the district for 5 years.

John Parsons asked if we are required to have a paper ballot and if there could be a show of hands before the secret ballot vote.

Attorney Gorrow confirmed that the requirements of 5 signatures for a secret ballot were met and that this needs to be done.

Tom Newkirk made a point of clarification that at the beginning the job description was too broad and diverse, however, when the Board voted the number of items removed by one half and there was more clarity. He also stated that this is a full year position and not a teacher position.

Al Howland explained that we really cannot wait since we need someone embedded in the district.

Dan discussed the burden the teachers face in doing this work on their own. We need someone to handle the capacity.

Krista Butts called the question, second by Marie D'Agostino.

Serena Kow of Durham asked for clarification of a yes vs no vote.

Moderator Laughton explained that a yes vote changes the warrant article and a No vote keeps it the same.

Secret ballot began at 8:21PM and voting closed at 8:45 PM. The results of ballot vote on the amendment was 21 Yes to 163 No. The amendment failed

Seth Fiermonti of Durham called the question on article 3 as written moved by a show of cards.

Vote called and passed by majority vote.

Motion made by Brain Cisneros to restrict reconsideration second by Michael Williams.

Motion passed.

Article 4

Dan Klein read article 4 and made a motion to approve article 4 as written, second by Michael Williams.

Dan explained this was for the principals. Dr Morse clarified that this article was for the custodial group.

Motion passed.

Article 5

Dan Klein read article 5 and made the motion to approve Article 5 as written, second by Michael Williams.

Dean Rubine of Lee asked what the base raise was and how many people employed in this article. Sue Caswell confirmed a 5% increase and that there were 84 members. There was no further questions.

Motion passed.

Article 6

Michael Williams read article 6 and made the motion to approve Article 6 as written, second by Denise Day.

Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn made by John Parson second by Todd Allen.

Meeting adjourn at 8:56.

Moderator Laughton thanked everyone for attending and reread the polling times and locations.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan P. Caswell