

Chairman Conway opened the public session at 7:04 p.m.

In Attendance:

Joseph Conway - Bradford

Jim Hand – Warner

George Saunders – Warner

Robert Nelson – Sutton

Kyle Kennedy – New London

Richard Anderson – New London

Leigh Callaway - Springfield

Others present: Jerry Frew, Dan Wolf, Larry Elliot, Marc Violette, Mark Schaub, Jim Wheeler, John Wilson

1. Meeting Minutes

Approval of the October 26, 2010 minutes was tabled until November 16th. Mr. Hand asked if he could make some grammatical changes. Mr. Conway submitted three changes which were copied by Mr. Hand for inclusion.

2. Technology Budget

Mark Schaub presented the Technology budget to the MBC which includes a 5-year replacement cycle that calls for 211 computers to be replaced each year. To maintain such a cycle the cost would be approximately \$200K. Mr. Schaub does work at extending computers beyond the 5-year replacement cycle.

The computer software line was cut by \$15K, and increases were seen in contract services for an additional \$9,300, and replacement computers for an additional \$87K.

Mr. Schaub is looking to receive E-Rate Funding which is a Federal Program; reimbursement for telephone and internet access for each of the schools as well as the web-site hosting agreement. Also, there is talk that future State NECAP testing will be done online, requiring increased computer usage. This will probably happen in the next 3-4 years. Mr. Callaway said a message should be sent to the State about the continued unfunded mandates that offset its budget but add to the school and municipal budgets. This trend needs to stop.

Chairman Conway asked if an \$87K per year increase is enough for computer upgrades. Mr. Schaub feels similar funding over the course of the 5-years will be adequate to maintain the replacement cycle.

George Saunders asked for a status on the other supporting technology such as projectors, smart boards, etc. Mr. Schaub said that with internal funds as well as the outside funding (grants) the supporting technology can be adequately funded.

Mr. Schaub provided further detail about the district's servers which are Apple (Mac) products. Mr. Kennedy asked if it would be possible to switch to Windows because the cost would be cheaper. Mr. Schaub said it is more efficient when shopping for hardware, he prefers to match a piece of hardware or software with its intended purpose.

Mr. Anderson asked if there is an idea on how many students own computers. Mr. Schaub is looking to collect that data.

Mr. Kennedy asked if there is a 5-year warranty that goes along with the 5-year plan. Mr. Schaub said typically there is a 1-2 year warranty, and usually the extended warranties are not purchased because they are not cost efficient; the school's technicians are the ones who keep things going.

Mr. Callaway asked if there are any discounts available for the hardware. Mr. Schaub said hardware that is not sole sourced is bid out.

Mr. Schaub also explained that the voice over internet (VOIP) only functions within an internal net, and that outside phone calls are still using land lines. However he is researching the cost savings available if all the buildings were on the same network.

Public Comments:

Jim Wheeler from the New London Budget Committee understands that 1,100 laptops are needed in the school district, but he asked if the educational goals could be met with only 500 laptops. Mr. Schaub stated that 1,100 are required to meet the technology plan as it stands.

2. Other Business

Larry Elliot provided answers to the following questions from the last MBC meeting by offering a percentage breakout of the district's special needs students. 39% of the special needs students have learning disabilities, 18% are other health impaired (OHI), 14% are developmentally delayed, and the last 10% are speech/language deficient.

Dan Wolf, acting as SB representative to the MBC, provided an explanation regarding the Kearsarge Learning Center (KLC) funding issue raised at the previous MBC meeting by Mr. Conway. He disagreed with Mr. Conway's assessment that maintains there is no long term commitment for sprinkler systems throughout the old middle school. Mr. Wolf stated that there is an understanding with the New London Fire Department and Planning Board that as funding becomes available, phase II, III & IV of the sprinkler system will be completed. Mr. Conway had stated that this commitment was not shared with the voters. If it had been shared and the voters had not approved the idea, what would be the impact on the overall disposition of the SAU. Mr. Wolf said he is not sure he has an answer.

On the issue of the KLC itself Mr. Conway next questioned the use of over \$300K spent for the KLC which had not been appropriated for this purpose. His review of budget work sheets over the past three years did not discuss any appropriation of funds for this project. Again, it appears that this movement of funds has been done without knowledge or approval of the taxpayers. Since the law requires that you spend only what is appropriated, the school board should explain its actions to the public. Mr. Wolf explained that the review of action to be accomplished with the SAU building and the KLC was discussed in at least 15 separate KRSB meetings, which are public, and he believes that the board was very open in its intent. He believes that concerned citizens should have had no trouble maintaining currency with the disposition of the SAU or development of the KLC. To resolve this issue both Mr. Conway and Mr. Wolf agreed to have the entire subject of the SAU/KLC written up and submitted as an article in the *Intertown Record* as soon as possible.

John Wilson from the New London Budget Committee expressed his concern about the increased School Board budget and why he believed that it should be held flat. His view was countered by Mr. Wolf. Others in attendance added further commentary in a rather prolonged discussion on the overall budget. In concluding this discussion Mr. Conway assured everyone that the MBC has been listening to the voters concerns.

3. Nonpublic Session

Chairman Conway moved to enter into Nonpublic Session at 8:55 p.m. per RSA 91-A:3 II (c), reputation and (a) compensation. The motion was seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Conway – yes; Jim Hand – yes; George Saunders – yes; Robert Nelson – yes; Kyle Kennedy – yes; Richard Anderson – yes; Leigh Callaway – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

In attendance: Joseph Conway, Jim Hand, George Saunders, Robert Nelson, Kyle Kennedy, Richard Anderson, Leigh Callaway, Jerry Frew, Dan Wolf and Recorder Mary Whalen

Chairman Conway gave an update on the collective bargaining to the MBC.

Chairman Conway moved to come out of Nonpublic Session at 9:30 p.m. The motion was seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Conway – yes; Jim Hand – yes; George Saunders – yes; Robert Nelson – yes; Kyle Kennedy – yes; Richard Anderson – yes; Leigh Callaway – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Adjournment

At 9:20 p.m. Mr. Conway requested a movement to adjourn. The motion was raised, seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting was approved at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Whalen
Recording Secretary