

ISLESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD BUDGET WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 28, 2017—4:00 P.M. IN THE ICS MUSIC ROOM

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call: Board members in attendance: Mike Boucher, Lars Nelson, and John Gorham. Mike Boucher agreed to chair the meeting in the absence of board chair Laura Houle and Bill Kelly board vice-chair. Also in attendance: Arch Gillies, Heather Knight, and Patrick Phillips, superintendent of schools.
- II. Adjustments to the Agenda: None
- III. Open Session: No comments were offered by the public.
- IV. New Business
 - a. Review and discuss February 8 draft of the 2017-18 ICS budget: Ms. Knight and Mr. Phillips review the current draft of the budget, beginning with highlights of K-12 program priorities from Ms. Knight. In her brief presentation, Ms. Knight discussed proposed changes in contracted services, special education, and high school guidance. She also noted that she is expecting the magnet program enrollment to increase slightly next year due to recent stronger connections with the Cornerspring Montessori School in Belfast and the K-8 school in Northport. Mike Boucher asked whether it would be wise for us to review our local policies on accepting magnet school in the event new federal educational initiatives focus on vouchers or other means for public school students to enroll outside of their own towns. Patrick agreed to begin researching this. Heather also noted that Ryan Martin is planning a professional development workshop for educators across Maine to be held here in June. Mike Boucher suggested this could be the first of several workshops that highlight innovative practices being implemented at ICS.
 - b. Mr. Phillips the provided an overview of recent adjustments to the expenditures and revenues sections of the February 8 draft of the budget. Among likely additions to the expenditures budget are: increased funds necessary to implement the recommendations of the stipend review committee, likely changes to staff health insurance plans, and upkeep of the new gardens in front of the building. Decreases in expenditures are anticipated in: contracted services, Region 8 assessment, special education program costs, and legal services. He also noted that since the last meeting, changes in our revenue forecast have become clearer: an increase is expected in state subsidy (\$7.320) and an increase in magnet tuition (up \$20,000). The overall impact of the expenditures and revenues changes will be negligible, and Mr. Phillips stated that once we have

completed the bargaining process with the teachers association, we will be able to plug in the resulting increase, and hopefully bring the budget in with no more than a 3% increase to the bottom line.

- c. Arch Gillies commented that the climate described during the workshop, where professional staff are collaborating and innovating to produce an effective program, is very akin to the creative climate that exists with the town, symbolized by the broadband and town centers projects.
- d. Mr. Phillips asked for two points of guidance from the board: whether we need to conduct another budget workshop as scheduled for March 7, or whether it would be sufficient to conduct the planned workshop just prior to the March 14 regular school board meeting. The board agreed that the workshop scheduled for March 7 was unnecessary. Mr. Phillips also asked the board whether the current bottom line of the budget was in the ballpark or whether the board would like to see a lower number. The board agreed that the current bottom line was acceptable.

V. Other Business: None

VI. Adjournment: Motion by John Gorham, with second by Lars Nelson, to adjourn. Unanimous in favor.