



Excellence for All – It's the Watertown Way
Watertown Unified School District

Special Board Meeting Proceedings

April 9, 2018

A Special Board Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Mark Putra, on Monday, April 9, 2018, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Media Center, at Watertown High School, 825 Endeavour Dr., Watertown, WI. Mark Putra led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present: Steve Kauffeld, Tony Arnett, Karrie Uttech, Paul VanDenLangenberg, Jennifer Bakke, Ron Buchanan and Mark Putra

Board Members Absent: Mark Holland and Fran Milburn

Others Present: Michael Clark, R.W. Baird

Public Input: None

Strategic Discussion:

2018/19 Budget: Cassandra Schug shared with the following with the Board:

- WUSD is under declining enrollments
- WUSD has traditionally been a low-spending District at approximately \$1,000 per student less than the state average
- WUSD is currently facing a budget deficit of over one-million dollars for the 2018/19 school year

WUSD has taken these strategic cost savings measures over the past ten years to address budget constraints and declining enrollments:

- FTE reductions across the system, including teachers, administrators and support staff
- Insurance Plan Restructure
- Retirement Plan Restructure
- Onsite Clinic
- Offering diversified options for students and families to offset open enrollments

Possible short-term solutions/reductions were shared:

- FTE reductions
- Early retirement package/option
- Property sales
- Restructuring the school schedule – longer hours and earlier dismissal
- Restructuring ESC location and/or other building locations
- Additional fees for facility use
- School restructures

Possible long-term solutions/opportunities:

- Additional healthcare redesign - employee wellness

- Credit flexibility/serving non-consumers
- Seeking additional grant funding
- Marketing campaign/rebranding

Michael Clark, R.W. Baird gave a presentation about potential referendum scenarios to address budget constraints. A potential referendum timeline for November 2018 was shared with the Board.

The Board discussed the budget reductions and referendum possibilities. The Board recommended a resolution be brought to the April 23rd Board meeting with the intent of going to a November 2018 referendum.

Adjournment: There being no further business, it was moved by Ron Buchanan, seconded by Jennifer Bakke, and unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Putra
Board President (signed)

(Disclaimer: These minutes are uncorrected and any corrections made thereto will be noted in the meeting at which they are approved.)