



Potomac Elementary School

School Board Minutes

for

February 25, 2011

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*"Potomac School equips each student for his/her future
within a culture of excellence that values the small community experience."*

Call to Order

Board Chair Robert O'Boyle called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM by leading all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those trustees present were: Jeff Hahn, Victoria Richardson and Jim Wrobel. Principal Tim Johnson and Jill Thornton, clerk, were also in attendance.

Public Input (for issues not on the agenda) None.

School Budget

Jill presented the budget that was prepared by the Office of Public Instruction. It shows a \$31,000 decrease from this current year's budget. She has contacted the MTSBA with a question on the law that says the board can adopt the previous year's budget, asking what the law states and what the process is. A copy of the law was sent from Aaron Bouschor at the MTSBA, and it states:

20-9-308. BASE budgets and maximum general fund budgets. (1) (a) The trustees of a district shall adopt a general fund budget that is at least equal to the BASE budget established for the district. The trustees of a district may adopt a general fund budget up to the maximum general fund budget **or the previous year's general fund budget**, whichever is greater.

(b) For purposes of the budget limitation in subsection (1)(a), the trustees may add any increase in state funding for the general fund payments in 20-9-327 through 20-9-330 to the district's previous year's general fund budget.

(2) Whenever the trustees of a district propose to adopt a general fund budget that exceeds the BASE budget for the district and to increase the over-BASE budget levy to support the general fund budget, the trustees shall submit a proposition to the electors of the district, as provided in 20-9-353.

(3) The BASE budget for the district must be financed by the following sources of revenue:

(a) state equalization aid, as provided in 20-9-343, including any guaranteed tax base aid for which the district may be eligible, as provided in 20-9-366 through 20-9-369;

(b) county equalization aid, as provided in 20-9-331 and 20-9-333;

(c) a district levy for support of a school not approved as an isolated school under the provisions of 20-9-302;

(d) payments in support of special education programs under the provisions of 20-9-321;

(e) non levy revenue, as provided in 20-9-141; and

(f) a BASE budget levy on the taxable value of all property within the district.

(4) The over-BASE budget amount of a district must be financed by a levy on the taxable value of all property within the district or other revenue available to the district, as provided in 20-9-141.

More clarification is necessary, and has been requested from Aaron. He will get back to us next week.

Even if we can adopt the current year's budget, we are still almost \$30,000 short for next year. If we cannot keep the current year's budget and a levy doesn't pass, we will be almost \$60,000 short next year.

Reducing our staff by one would cover the \$30,000 shortfall. Since the majority of our budget consists of staffing costs, we would have to reduce the staff by two to cover the total shortfall if the budget sent from the Office of Public Instruction is the actual budget we have to work with. A reduction of two staff members would severely affect the ability to perform the functions we are required to perform as a school.

