

MARCH 6, 2024

A special meeting of the Thedford Public Schools Board of Education was called to order by President Licking at 5:00 p.m. at Thedford High School. Members present: Bridget Licking, Jay Jones, Alison Werner, Spencer Burk and Matt Blackford. Absent: Dixie Hoffman. Also present: Superintendent Dahlberg, Barb Bryant, Michelle McIntosh, Darci Lee, Matt Miles, Jeri Huddle, Richard Jameson, Gretchen Anderson, and visitors.

Jones moved, Burk seconded to excuse absent board member Hoffman. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote. Absent: Hoffman.

Werner moved, Burk seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passed 5-0. Absent: Hoffman

Discussion was held on the current budget shortfalls and projected budget for 2024-2025. Gary Cooper provided some background information for the Board. Mr. Dahlberg provided further information to the Board, including a review of the decisions that led to lowering the tax request to the level it is currently at. These reasons included the COVID pandemic, economic uncertainties, and drought. The concerns discussed for next year's budget included the loss of ESSR funds, a decrease in state aid, and potential legislation that would continue to restrict the Board's ability to request the necessary levy for operations. Discussion continued with potential cuts to programs, including the possibility of cuts to teaching staff. Mr. Dahlberg provided information on the possibility of using a line of credit and conducting a Special Election to override the Revenue Growth Limitation. The Board stated that they are not in favor of cutting teaching staff and expressed the need to do the Special Election.

Barb Bryant, Michelle McIntosh, Darci Lee, Matt Miles, Jeri Huddle, Richard Jameson, and Gretchen Anderson addressed the board during public comment time.

Superintendent Dahlberg presented a contract for Robert Spurlin, science teacher for the 2024-2025 school year for board approval. Discussion followed. Werner moved, Jones seconded to approve as recommended and motion passed 5-0. Absent: Hoffman.

Superintendent Dahlberg read a resolution for Separation Incentives in the event that savings can be realized voluntarily. Discussion followed. Jones moved, Werner seconded to approve the resolution as presented and motion passed 4-1. Voting against: Blackford; Absent: Hoffman

President Licking adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, March 18th, 2024 at Thedford High School at 7:00 p.m.