

## **Shelburne Finance Committee Minutes February 9, 2021**

### **Joint Meeting on Zoom with Representatives of Other Finance Committees and Franklin County Technical School representatives**

Shelburne members present:

Jackie Walsh

John Redeker

Other Finance Committee reps present:

Buckland - Paula Consolo

Heath - Alice Wozniak

Also present:

Shelburne Select Board member – Margaret Payne

Town Moderator -- Roland Giguere

Town Administrator -- Terry Narkewicz

Franklin County Technical School Superintendent Rick Martin

Franklin County Technical School Business Manager Russ Kaubris

Meeting Called to Order at 6:33

### **Superintendent Rick Martin presented**

Superintendent Martin gave an overview of programs at the Tech School, such as AP classes, the Financial Literacy Program, the new veterinary program, the Women in Trades program, and the LPN program.

The school has received \$1.2 million in recent grants, including \$500,00 for the welding program and \$275,000 for the veterinary program.

There's been some recent facility initiatives at the school, including converting two classrooms into the vet science program space and adding a second floor to the electrical shop.

There is now a surgery room in the vet clinic and a dog grooming room. The program has state-of-the-art machinery including a lab. Between 60 and 80 students are expected to participate over the next few years.

Due to Covid, the school expanded its nurse's office to have a diagnostic room with an extra nurse.

Throughout the school are partitions and one-way signs to help with social distancing/hygiene, and the assembly hall has been split into four classrooms to allow more spacing between students.

There are also tents outside the building for mask breaks.

Enrollment is up at the Tech School, with 570 students expected next October, up 530 from last year.

That's up from 437 in 2016.

Due to increased enrollment, the school has added 9.5 more positions -- teachers as well as an aide, a librarian and an administrator.

In Shelburne, 19 students are expected to attend the school, compared to 17 this year.

That's up from 11 in 2013 and an enrollment as low as 3 in the decade before that.

At the tech school, 31 percent of the student body is eligible for special education, compared to 19 percent at Mohawk.

In the 1970s-'80s, as many as 700 to 800 students attended the Tech School. That fell a lot as schools stopped seeing the Tech School as "a dumping ground."

The school's physical capacity is 640 students.

The Women in Trades program allows Tech girls to meet women in the trades, who own electrician companies, carpentry businesses, etc. The program has been awesome and has led to 4-5 coop positions for Franklin County female students each year.

### **Russ Kaubris presented**

The proposed town assessments (the amount the towns are paying

for their tech students) would rise from \$6.3 million in Fiscal Year 2021 to the proposed \$6.5 million in FY 2022.

Capital assessments would drop from \$202,000 to \$196,000, if approved.

Enrollments may increase more than anticipated because of Covid-19.

Hiring is happening after several years of not replacing staff due to enrollment drops.

The total budget for the school was \$12,280,000 this year. The proposed budget is \$13,500,000 for next year.

The school is planning to spend \$575,000 in E and D to balance the budget. The school was virtual in March through June, so it saved some money on supplies, copper piping, wiring and other expensive equipment.

Because of the growing enrollment, the school will be adding 1 to 1.5 bus routes.

The number of Shelburne students attending is expected to go up from 14 to 17. The per pupil spending for each student from Shelburne should drop from \$13,097 to \$12,239.

The FCTS School Committee will be voting on the budget in March.

The number of Heath students will rise from 5 to 6, and the number of Buckland students is rising from 6 to 8. (We asked about those towns because reps from those town were at the meeting.)

The school paid 65 percent of its normal transportation costs March through June, at a time when no buses were running (true of Mohawk, too). This year, which has featured a hybrid approach, 100 percent of the buses have been running. The school has 561 miles of bus routes, compared to 231 for Mohawk.

The two said their budget numbers were based on conservative estimates of what the state could provide. The Jan. 27 numbers coming out of the state were a little higher than they had projected, Rick Martin said.

Russ Kaubris said the state revenues were a bit higher than expected.

For the tech school, tuition from out-of-district students acts as its stabilization fund, or money for a rainy day.

The teacher-students ratios at the school are 1:14 in the shops and 1:16.5 in the academic classes.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Walsh, scribe for the evening

Next Meeting: Mohawk officials meet with Fin Coms, 7 p.m.,  
Thursday, Feb. 11, on Zoom