

SCHOOL DISTRICT ROUNDTABLE MEETING
Minutes of 11-10-10
5:00 p.m.

<i>Selectmen:</i>	<i>(Center Harbor)</i>	<i>Richard Drenkhahn</i> <i>Charley Hanson</i>
	<i>(Meredith)</i>	<i>Chuck Palm</i> <i>Nathan Torr</i> <i>Colette Worsman</i>
	<i>(Sandwich)</i>	<i>Leo Dwyer</i> <i>Gerry Gingras</i> <i>Willard Martin</i>
	<i>Interlakes School District</i>	<i>Dan Cunningham</i> <i>Trish Temperino</i>
<i>Recording Clerk:</i>		<i>Karin Landry</i>

Meredith Selectman Chuck Palm called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. He introduced the representatives of the Center Harbor, Meredith, and Sandwich Boards of Selectmen, and the Interlakes School District.

Selectman Torr motioned to accept the minutes of the August 18th 2010 Roundtable Meeting. Seconded by Charley Hanson. All in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

Interlakes School District Assistant Superintendent of Financials, Trish Temperino made a presentation on the assessment apportionment formula employed by the District. Written materials were available for those in attendance.

History: Prior to 1963, Center Harbor and Meredith comprised the District. At a special meeting in February 1963, it was voted to add Sandwich to the District. The apportionment formula as it stands today was discussed and approved at said meeting. The reorganization of the District took place on April 1, 1963.

Law: The apportionment formulas fall under RSA 195, Cooperative School Districts.

Ms. Temperino used the 2010/2011[estimated] budget year as an example of what gets apportioned: Voted Appropriations (\$20,164,039) Less Revenues (\$1,108,932) equals the amount to be Apportioned (\$19,055,107). Town specific revenue is then deducted from the amount to be apportioned.

The combined average of the Average Daily Membership (ADM) and Equalized Valuation (based on property valuations equalized throughout the state) is the percentage assigned to each town for apportionment. Examples of each were provided for the three District communities for the '08/'09 school year. The figures are adjusted on a yearly based on the previous year's numbers. Ms. Temperino presented a chart depicting the estimated net assessment for each town for '10/'11:

Center Harbor	\$ 2,753,261
Meredith	13,332,206
Sandwich	<u>2,708,916</u>
Total	18,794,384

The estimated net assessment for '10/'11 is close to what was estimated at the time of the District meeting.

Ms. Temperino answered questions posed by the panel:

- Enrollment is established by average daily members, and is calculated on attendance each day. The enrollment numbers are actually "belly buttons" that pass through the door on any given day. The state uses an average of the children that were in attendance throughout the year to establish enrollment.
- The major force that led to a yearly change in the net assessment from '09/'10 to '10/'11 is property valuations. During said time period, valuations in Meredith did not rise as sharply as those in Center Harbor and Sandwich. Although the District has experienced a declining enrollment, the number of students has not changed dramatically.
- It is early to make projections for the '11/'12 year. Dr. McCormack of Interlakes School District explained that there are many unknowns as the state continues to pass costs along to the District. The state is not providing the revenue that was projected and budgeted. He urged those in attendance to let Concord know this is not the way business should be done.
- The School District has not built non-recurring funds into its annual budget, including stimulus money received in 2010. Ms. Temperino explained how those revenues are accounted for from a budget standpoint.
- In a majority of New Hampshire communities, the apportionment formula is based on a 50/50 split between ADM and Equalized Valuation.

Meredith resident Mark Billings pointed out that the cost of union employees continues to rise at a rate of 6-7% a year, and advised the District to shop for favorable health care rates.

Meredith resident Mark Flanders reminded voters to attend the School District meeting and vote for a rational budget, as the School Board presented a much lower budget than what was passed at the 2010 meeting.

Dr. McCormack told the panel that the philosophy of the School Board for the 2011 budget deliberations is to be cognizant of the economic times in which we are working, while continuing to provide the programs necessary to maintain the quality of the Interlakes schools.

Mr. Flanders inquired if a town can provide a certain service within its boundaries independently from the School District. Ms. Temperino explained that while a town is free to provide a service within its boundaries, decisions are made at the annual School District meeting about how money will be spent at the District level, and those that attend the meetings and elect School Board representatives are those who decide how things will go. Dr. McCormack believes that the practice would require DOE approval, at the very least. Selectman Palm suggested that this is a good topic for a subsequent meeting.

Resident Steve Merrill is confused by the intent of the meeting. He believes the appropriate forum for discussion surrounding the budget is before the School Board, and that more can be accomplished if the meetings are taken out of the budget cycle. It is Selectman Palm's personal philosophy that the meetings are an opportunity where representatives from each town can express their view so they can be heard at the same time.

Selectman Hanson expressed the difficulties being faced by municipal officials throughout the state. This is the first time there has been an opportunity for a District/municipal interface. The meetings will aid in making people aware that decisions are made by those who attend meetings and make informed votes.

Dan Cunningham of Interlakes School District invited the public to attend the hearing on the budget that is scheduled for the beginning of February. The exact date will be publicized once it has been set.

Dialogue ensued regarding a program where Selectboard and School District representatives meet on a regular basis. Center Harbor Selectman Randy Mattson wishes to have a quorum of all Boards of Selectmen and the School District attend the meetings. Sandwich Selectman Willard Martin supports such meetings when there are issues that affect the region. He does not believe that it is an appropriate forum for discussions regarding tensions over funding. It is important to identify specific topics for such meetings.

There was a general agreement among the panel that it is appropriate to invite the delegation from Concord to come before the group. Dialogue ensued regarding the timing of the meeting. The newly elected House of Representatives must be allowed adequate time to become acquainted with issues that will impact the towns of the School District. The House Education Chair will be invited to attend.

Chris Williams is concerned that the group has fundamentally changed its original intent, and that it must clearly identify what it intends to accomplish.

Selectman Hanson motioned that a meeting with state representatives be scheduled for January 19 at 5:30 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Dwyer. All in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

Dan Cunningham will check the availability of the Interlakes High School auditorium as the venue for the meeting.

Selectman Palm thanked Ms. Temperino for her presentation on the apportionment formula.

Selectman Hanson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Worsman. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.