

Friends of RSU 16

Meeting Minutes, March 8, 2019

Present: Mary Martin, Ken Healey, Norm Davis, Carl Beckett, Hester Gilpatrick, Dave Gilpatrick, Dave Griffiths, Yvon Gilbert, Suzie Stover, Don Stover, Amy Hediger

Presentation: Mary and Amy shared a presentation made by Jamie Vollmer last fall at the MSMA conference called “Look What We’re Doing In Our Schools”, which details what society asks of our schools and how much these changes cost. Since the early 1900s non-academic duties have been steadily shifted to the schools. Each year the burden on our educators grows. Schools cannot do it alone. Vollmer suggests that a focus on “what is going right” will build trust and help our communities understand the challenges that educators face. His five S’s include: Stop (Don’t spread negativity). Shift (Shift attention from negative to positive), Share (Share the positive things that you see and hear), Sustain (Keep it up), and Start now.

Budget Update: The RSU 16 Budget Committee met for a day at the end of February and then finalized a proposal to bring to the RSU 16 School Board on March 19th. At that meeting the Board will approve a budget for presentation at the public informational meeting on March 26th. On April 8th the Board will consider the feedback from the informational meeting and finalize the budget proposal for presentation at the District Budget meeting on April 24th. The budget referendum is scheduled for May 14th. The proposal from the Budget Committee includes the status quo budget, a literacy coach, an elementary counselor position and upgrades to the K-6 network. On the revenue side, increases in state subsidy and fund balance will help to offset tax increases.

Read Across America: Second graders from Jessica Harvey’s classroom joined the “Friends” group from 10:00-10:20. Everyone read quietly in celebration of the Read Across America initiative.

Middle School Update: At the RSU 16 School Board meeting on February 25th the bids for construction of the middle school renovation were reviewed. The RSU 16 School Board approved Great Falls Construction as the “least expensive qualified bid” with a bid of \$4,330,275 and alternates totaling \$255,292 for a total sum of \$4,585,567. Phase 1 will be construction of the new middle school wing and phase two will be the combined BMW/PRHS entrance and high school modifications. Construction preparations have started and the new wing will open to students in January 2020.

Meeting Schedule: Friends of RSU 16 will meet the second Friday of each month during the school year. (April 12th, May 10th, June 14th)

Next Meeting: The next meeting of Friends of RSU 16 will be April 12th at Elm Street School Conference room at 9:00.