

**Budget Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, January 22, 2014 Town Hall 7pm**

**Chr. Lamson called the meeting to order at 7pm.**

**Present:** Chairman John Lamson, VC Gail Klanchesser, Gail Pare, Michael Marconi, Janis Marconi, Jack O'Reilly, (Sandra Sweeney absent), School Board Rep. David Mueller, Selectmen's Rep. Rick Stern and Leila Richardson. Also present was Jim Katkin, SAU 50 Business Administrator, Deirdre Link, School Board Chair, Peter Latchaw, School Principal and Martha Roy, Town Administrator.

**School District Budget Request of \$1,933,442: G.Pare moved to tentatively recommend \$1,933,442 , M. Marconi seconded. Motion passed 9-0.** Before the vote, J. Katkin discussed the budget and education program. The proposed budget shows an increase of 1.26% (\$24,000), but due to revenue increases the tax rate will decrease by .03%. Enrollment is declining at the High School.

There is a new position in the budget. The Elementary School has a new library/media position for one-half day.

A question was raised as to how many students in Newington do not attend the school. Peter Latchaw noted that there were 3 to his knowledge.

Cost per student was discussed as well as the 5 to 1 student/faculty ratios, the roof renovation, and the computers for each student. The State test and NEWA tests that the Newington students take show extra progress each year.

The New Castle and Newington physical plants were compared with a summary showing much maintenance had been completed in Newington to keep it ahead of the curve. The school bus service had gone out to bid which resulted in a 2% increase over last year.

Regarding generators, it was suggested that the school and town combine their forces to receive the best price for generator maintenance if possible, depending on brand of generator etc.

The joint use of library assets between Langdon Library and the school library were emphasized with P. Latchaw noting that a school library was essential for accreditation. J. Katkin stated he looked forward to the new librarian position collaborating with the Langdon Library to increase services for the children. It was noted that there is already a computer link between the two libraries.

The Committee asked about the replacement of windows and the school nurse duties. There was also discussion regarding police and fire presence in the school as well as their new security measures taken to control access.

J. Katkin emphasized the importance of the Asst. Superintendent's role detailing the curriculum development and many other critical functions.

**Minutes Review:** January 15, 2014 minutes were reviewed. **G. Klanchesser moved to approve the minutes of January 15, 2014 with the amendment of adding in the full**

**amount of the Fire Department budget to the last line. This was seconded by Leila Richardson. The vote was 8-0-1 in favor (with David Mueller abstaining as he was not present).**

The Committee consensus was to have a separate person take minutes at the public hearing.

**Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 8:20pm, seconded by G. Klanchesser with all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha S. Roy  
Town Administrator