

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 30, 2008
Town Hall 7:00pm

Chairman Larry Wahl called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Present: Chairman Wahl, Members Gail Klanchesser (GK), Gail Pare (GP), Darin Sabine (DS), Tom Benson (TB), Selectmen's Rep Jack O'Reilly (JO), School Board Rep Helen Maldini (HM), Russ Cooke (RC), John Lamson (JL), and Rick Stern (RS); Administrative Assistant Beatrice Marconi; from the SAU and the Elementary School-Jim Katkin, George Cushing, Deidre Link and Principal Helen Rist.

GP moved to approve the January 23rd meeting minutes. JO seconded. Motion passed with corrections.

Chr Wahl spoke of the positions up this year for election and urged members who wanted to re run to sign up this week. Chr Wahl also reviewed the meeting absence rule.

GP moved to tentatively accept the School Department's budget of \$ 1,812,592. GK seconded.

Jim Katkin of SAU 50 gave an overview of the proposed 2008-09 school budget which is up less than 1% and 7.48% on the District Assessment. No Warrant Articles were proposed by the School.

Mr. Katkin went on to say that we are looking at about a plus 15 cent impact on the school side right now if our valuations were to stay as they are. The unreserved fund balance will go from about \$180,000 to \$ 70,000 to balance the school side because of the school credits. For every \$8,073 spent, adds 1 cent on the school rate.

The \$180,000 surplus from last year came from several sources

- 1). Tuition to Middle School – the initial projection turned out to be high
- 2). Special Ed – The child ended up leaving the area
- 3). High School Tuition was lower than expected
- 4). Special Ed at the High School was under spent
- 5). Health Insurance did not increase as estimated

Major Increases/decreases for 2008-09 totaled (plus) \$ 153,388

Operation costs up \$13,199 over last year's

Increases in the High School Tuition

Class room teachers costs up \$ 15,782 due to raises through the Collective Bargaining Agreement

10% increase for the Phs. Ed teacher

Admissions: This is the year the students attend the Conservation Camp (every other)

School Board Salaries increased

\$3,106 for after school enrichment program – self subsidizing and paid for by donations, fees and parents.

Fica was increased accordingly with salary increases

3.5% increase for building administration.

Legal expense increased by \$2,000

Tuition in the middle school is down by \$ 81,110 (7 less students)

Saving of about \$ 32,000 for special ed at middle school

Health Insurance estimation is lower than last year

Newington is paying \$ 4,554 less to SAU for support

After School Enrichment is down \$2,500

Psychological counseling is down

PHS costs are much higher than the Middle school due to a newer bigger building, classes are generally smaller and the cost of teaching is generally higher.

The stipends are up around 30% for the school budget. JO suggested that they look at what the Town did, that is base increases on the C.O.L A.

The teacher contribution to health plans vary from between 5% and 20% depending on plan.

JO informed Principal Rist that the snow blower that was initially shared between the Fire Dept, School and Town Hall can now be shared by the School and Fire Station as Town Hall bought their own.

Extended day option is being offered to the Kindergarten goers which does not affect the buses. Full day is being looked into involving Newcastle, at no cost.

The building work last year to address the leaks has been completed

Chairman Wahl called for the vote to tentatively approve \$ 1,812,592 with the motion passing.

Principal Rist was recognized for being a Principal of Excellence.

GK moved to adjourn. HM seconded. Motion passed.

Respectively Submitted

Beatrice Marconi
Administrative Assistant