

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2007
Town Hall

Chairman Alfred Smith called the meeting to order at 7:05pm to hear the school budget presentation.

Present: Al Smith-Chairman, Larry Wahl -Vice Chair, Helen Maldini-School Board Rep, Gail Klanchesser, Gail Pare, Cliff Abbott, Jack O'Reilly – Selectmen's Rep, Russell Cooke, John Lamson, Candice Cantalupo, Rick Stern, Beatrice Marconi – Admin. Assist., Helen Rist – Principal-Elementary School, Dierdre Link, George Cushing and Jim Katkin from SAU 50, Lisa Zhe from the Portsmouth Herald, Jack Anderson, Mike Mazeau, Wayne Wood, Sally Straude, and another member of the general public.

Gail Pare moved to accept the minutes of January 24 with Russell Cooke seconding. Motion passed unanimously.

Larry Wahl moved to accept the school budget of \$ 1,776,999. Gail Pare seconded.

Chairman Smith noted that the above amount did not include the funding of any warrant article. This year's warrant article is \$22,394 covering added salary and benefits based on negotiations of the contracts.

Areas discussed:

Teachers are slated to receive 3.6% C.O.L.A. if the warrant article passes.

Instructor's salary is '0' for '07 as the physical education teacher took the place of the one originally projected.

Special Education is half what was budgeted last year due to reductions in aid based on less student load. Resources were reallocated.

Enrichment showed a minor decrease.

Extended school year (page 5) is summer classes and one must qualify based on need.

After School Enrichment will be self sustaining. It is a trial program only which began this week but must be budgeted for if it proves beneficial.

1 person 3.5 hrs per day (1 hr set aside for planning and cleanup) Program is 3pm-5pm. Outside offerings such as Karate, etc will be offered. Needs 5 to 7 students to meet enrollment and 8 to 10 to participate in extra curriculum. The cost will be \$15 dollars a day for those with regular attendance and \$ 17 per day for those who attend sporadically. These costs cover the extra curriculum as well. There is no contract. If it doesn't work between now and June, the program will cease, however in the future, if enrollment or interest for this is higher, then it may come back. The money must be shown in the budget in order to spend any money on expenditures. It will be off set by the revenue. Donations from Smokey Bones and a local family helped make this trial possible. Further donations will be accepted if outside funding comes forward. Is open to any elementary school aged child.

Community Ed - \$ 1,000 – Perhaps offerings for adults – further possibilities to be analyzed.

Therapy and psychological services - dropped due to smaller number of students requiring this service.

Repairs to hardware – increased – technology needs are generally eligible for a grant and off set. Two way technologies monitors the schools’ systems and quite often it is done over the phone lines.

Health & Nursing – Hours needed is decreasing. Next year only 2 hours per day is requested.

Curriculum Coordinator is now budgeted by SAU.

Water/Sewer dropped due to Mr. Katkin analyzing the usage.

Transportation decreased. This is the 4th year of a 5 year contract.

Insurances increased approx \$12,000.

The elementary school shows approx \$ 60,000 less than it requested last year.

Middle school – tuition decreased due to number of students

High school down about \$ 15,000 as Special Education was being analyzed by SAU 50 as to the billing procedure by Portsmouth

The Kitchen was revamped in ’05 with the balance coming out of cap reserve.

Food service down around \$700. Outside the students, no one can join in for the meals due to federal regulations governing USDA products like milk and cheese.

The total school budget appears to be down by about 8% which should impact the tax rate by -26 cents based on this years valuations.

Jack O’Reilly mentioned that the emergency generator was placed here at Town Hall and emergency shelter may someday expand to the school.

The extension of kindergarten was mentioned with an optional extended day program which could be considered next year.

Chairman Smith called for the vote on \$ 1,776,999. Motion passed unanimously. Gail Pare moved to recommend the Warrant Article in the amount of \$ 22,394 with Helen Maldini seconding. Motion passed.

Chairman Smith noted that the actual recommendation will be at the public hearing for all the warrant articles. The General Government budget will be presented this Saturday at 1;00pm and asked the members to consider an additional workshop for a couple of hours sometime before the public hearing.

Gail Klanchesser moved to adjourn. Jack O’Reilly seconded. So moved.

Respectively Submitted

Beatrice Marconi
Administrative Assistant