

TO THE NEWINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEWINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Newington School Board met on Tuesday, January 9, 2007, at the SAU 50 Superintendent of Schools Office in Greenland, New Hampshire.

PRESENT: Jack Anderson, Deirdre Link, Helen Maldini (Chairperson), School Board Members; George A. Cushing, Superintendent of Schools, James Katkin, Business Administrator; Helen Rist, Principal.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Maldini called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

Mr. Katkin began the meeting by reviewing the enrollment projections. Enrollment at the Newington Public School is projected to be in the mid to high 40's over the next four years. Mr. Katkin uses a state formula to calculate the projections. He believes that because the numbers are low, there is room for error over a five year period. Mr. Katkin's forecast, historically, has been within 3% of what he projected.

REVIEW OF BUDGET

Mr. Katkin began the budget review by informing the board that typically school district budgets double in a ten year period, the Newington budget has increased at a lower rate, 30-40%. During the past five years, the average increase to the Newington budget has been 5%. The cost per pupil has doubled in the past ten years. This has been caused by a drop in student enrollment, not a rise in the operating budget. In the 2005-2006 school year there was actually a decrease in the per pupil cost.

Comparison of Tax Rate Analysis

In the 2006-2007 school year, approximately 36% of every tax dollar is going to run the schools. In the 2000-2001 school year the percentage was exactly the same.

Operating Budget

The 2007-2008 proposed operating budget is a decrease from the current year of 10.51%; the elementary school portion of the budget is decrease of 8.42% from the current year. Without the teacher contract warrant article, the tax rate is estimated to decrease by \$0.30. The district assessment will also decrease to \$239,118 or 12.94%.

Salaries and Contracted Services

There is an overall reduction in the teacher's salary line account of \$21,362.00. There is also a decrease of \$18,647.00 in the support personnel line account due to a reduction in hours for one position. This represents a 14.47% decrease to the overall budget.

Special Education

This line account is down across the district by approximately \$76,000.00

Elementary School

The elementary operating budget has decreased from \$58,097.00 in 2006-2007 to \$52,965.00 in 2007-2008.

Middle School

Due to a shift in enrollment at Portsmouth Middle School, the middle school budget has decreased from \$809,358.00 in the 2006-2007 school year to \$697,616.00 for the 2007-2008.

High School

This account \$420,024.00 has increased slightly in 2007-2008 from \$431,244.00 in 2006-2007.

Warrant Articles

Article 1 – The operating budget.

Article 2 – Collective Bargaining Agreement value of \$22,394.00. This total includes all increased cost items such as FICA, retirement, etc. The impact of this article passing will be \$0.03 to the tax rate.

Article 3 – Allow the school board to call one special meeting should article two be defeated.

STAFF REDUCTIONS

With the completion of the budget review by Mr. Katkin the board returned to section four, salaries, to better understand the staffing reductions.

Mrs. Rist discussed each staff reduction and her rationale for making the recommendation. After much discussion, the following actions were taken to adjust the recommendations:

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Link, the board voted unanimously to reinstate the 10% decrease to the technology position bringing the position back to 30%.

On a motion by Mrs. Maldini, seconded by Ms. Link, the board voted unanimously to add one half hour per week to the Spanish position to ensure that grades one and two will have exposure to Spanish.

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Link, the board voted unanimously to add a line to the budget for adult education in the amount of \$1,000. The adult education proposal will include a user fee for services provided.

On a motion by Ms. Maldini, seconded by Ms. Link, the board voted unanimously to add a line to the budget for an after school enrichment program in the amount of \$15,000. The funds being budgeted will be offset by a user fee and the net cost to the budget should be zero. This line account is for accounting purposes only. If the trial period of the program goes well and the program continues, this will be a placeholder in the budget to continue the program.

At 11:30 a.m., on a motion by Ms. Link; seconded by Mr. Anderson, the board entered nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3 II [c] to discuss negotiations. The vote was unanimous. The board returned to public session at 12:30 p.m. On a motion by Ms. Link, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the board voted, unanimously, seal the minutes of the nonpublic session.

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Link, the board voted unanimously to increase the stipend for the school board recording secretary from \$50 to \$100 for regularly scheduled school board meetings.

On a motion by Ms. Link, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

School Board Secretary