

Farmington Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2003

Attendance: Chairman Walter Mills, Gail Ellis, Arthur Capello, Sylvia Howard, Kristine Bolstridge, Bernie Nason, Ruth Scruton and Todd Lefebvre

Henry Wilson Memorial School Principle: Butch Lewis

Farmington High School Principle: Mike Lee

Farmington High School Vice Principle: Peter Weaver

Superintendent: Brian Blake

Business Administrator : Deborah Briggs

The meeting convened and was called to order at 7:11 pm by Chairman Mills.

Henry Wilson Memorial School

Butch explained that there is a new line item this year representing a new Consumer Science/Home Economics program at Henry Wilson. He stated that the school is currently considered an upper Elementary School due to the lack of the Home Economics program. With the addition of the program the school will be then considered a Middle School. The program will be a required course for every student as are all programs that are offered at the school.

Bernie asked why there is a large increase in special education aides. Butch explained that there has been an addition of grades causing the subsequent increase in aides. Bernie asked why there was a decrease in the salary of the athletic coaches. Butch explained that no positions have changed in that department, however the budget now reflects the correct salaries of those positions. Arthur asked about the library costs and why there were no budgeted funds for books. Todd explained that books and other items in the library budget were found to be bondable items and reflected as such. Arthur also questioned why there were two assistant principles as well as an additional secretary. Butch explained that the assistant principles are split between grades and the additional secretary covers the two additional grades that were added this year.

Farmington High School

Mike explained that his goal was to present a level funded budget excluding salary as he cannot control that. He stated that there was a significant decrease in book costs due to rebinding. He further stated that the departments are sharing materials as well, cutting back on costs. He explained that the foreign language supplies did increase due to workbooks that are needed by each student, as they are consumable. Mike explained that he requested 3 additional special education aides this year. There are already 2 aides that are required and he is requesting another aid to assist in general population of the school. Kristine asked if any of the aides are considered full time. Mike stated that none of the aides are full time and none receive benefits, however he's not absolutely sure as one of the aides that serves as a one-on-one aide may be considered full time. Library budget decreased significantly as previous librarian retired as well as books and other such materials being bonded. Mike explained that internet fees may be nonexistent due to current negotiations with Metrocast (internet service provider), however negotiations are still taking place and internet fees still have to be budgeted. Also explained that graduation costs are up due to over-expenditure in the past years. Kristine asked why there is a decrease in the special education field trips and Mike responded that it has never been fully expended due to non-use.

Kristine asked for an explanation regarding special education aides at Henry Wilson Memorial School and their salaries. Deborah explained that there may be currently 26 special education aides for Henry Wilson Memorial School, however she believes only 20 are based on current contracts with the school. The other 6 positions are granted and not paid out of the town budget.

Arthur made a motion to adjourn. Sylvia seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Accepted as per Vote of the Budget Committee:

Catherine Plourde

Walter Mills

Date

Walter Mills	Gail Ellis	Sylvia Howard
Tom Huse	Arthur Capello	Ruth Scruton
Kristine Bolstridge	Bernie Nason	Virginia Gray
Todd Lefebvre	Gerald McCarthy	