

**Minutes of the Finance & Advisory Board  
Town of Georgetown  
January 31, 2007**

Location – Third Floor Meeting Room – Town Hall

Members in Attendance – Jon Ayres, Robin O’Malley, Tim Ruh - Secretary, Ruth Stewart, Reggie Tardif - Chairman, Sandy Gerraughty, Jack L’Hommedieu, Mike Sweat

Member Absent – Phil Cannon

Joint Meeting with the School Committee – George Moker, Daryl Barta, Dave Bjork

Guests – John Faucher, Matt Fox, Patti White-Lambright, Gail Korpusik, Steve Delaney, Richie Clough, Philip Trapani, Larry Borin, Steve Fortado, Matt Vincent, Scott Jones, Patty Pitari

Minutes taken by Tim Ruh

Meeting called to Order at 7:12 PM

Items Discussed:

Meeting was held to discuss the proposed FY08 School Budget. George Moker presented a 22 page document providing an overview of the proposed budget. This overview accompanied the detailed proposed budget that was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Questions and discussions items included:

1. Follow-up item - Getting detailed revenue of the revolving accounts for the last 2 years.
2. Follow-up item - Reconciliation of the slide stating that the budget would increase by \$703,905 without any changes in staffing or programs – Moker stated that it should be the Contractual obligations of \$454,400 plus the revolving account changes of \$234,505. The amount is off by \$15,000.
3. Discussed the self-funding components of Pre-school and KEP.
4. Discussed Federal and State grants which are dedicated to certain programs. Discussed School lunch account which ended with \$6,600 balance.
5. Revenue – Are there changes in fees and tuitions in this budget – George replied that KEP and Pre-school tuition will be increasing 5%.
6. Follow-up item – Compare all fees and tuitions with other towns in the area.
7. Follow-up item – Summary sheet of budget over the past five years including class sizes. If possible, to break the expenses out for each school in each year.
8. School Choice – We pay 70% of the per pupil expense of the district a Georgetown resident chooses to go to with a maximum cost of \$5,000. We get less because of our low per pupil expense.

9. Salary Increases – We spent time discussing the contractual language of the teacher’s contract. Overall, the school committee states that there is a 4.4% increase in wages on average under this budget. That number was calculated taking into account new employees that would replace higher paid retiring or exiting employees. Provisions of the contract allow for an individual to receive much more than the 4.4% average because of the ability to move in “Steps” and “Scale.” The contract is not tied to performance of the teacher. Follow-up item – Get an average increase for the employees that were full time employees in FY07 and compare to the budgeted expense for FY08 to determine an actual wage increase average.
10. SPED – discussed the cost and obligations of Special Education.
11. Utilities - \$419K in budget compared to \$312K in 06. The board asked if anything could be done to reduce consumption through the use of energy audits or through the use of oil versus gas in schools that have dual capacity
12. Maintenance – Maintenance costs are now charged to each school in order to have the principal involved. Between all building, \$86K in building maintenance and \$28K in maintenance supplies. Leasing 2 new copiers. Steve Fortado stated that with 125 professionals, he does not believe that we have an unreasonable budget for copiers and copier maintenance.
13. Water in Fuel tank – discussed the issue briefly with Steve and Larry stating that the covers are now secure.
14. Energy Conservation - . Reggie stated that the Selectmen should be looking into conserving energy at all public buildings. Jack discussed town windows that were open on 1/22/07.
15. NEASC Accreditation – Sandy asked several questions regarding the accreditation warning received from NEASC.
16. Early Retirement – George explained early retirement incentive and sick leave buyout expenses.
17. GMHS gym floor – discussed this budgeted item.
18. SPED age requirements – 3-22 and SPED transportation was discussed. Larry made a plea to have everyone contact our state representatives and push for transportation to be included in the circuit breaker.
19. Mr. Scott James residing on Davis Lane, presented a number of color pages graphing the relationship of the town’s per pupil spending with the state’s and then he correlated the per pupil spending to the results of the MCAS scores. Discussion ensued regarding the correlations that can or can not be made with the data.
20. Rob Hoover made a statement regarding the 2004 Vision Statement and the danger of not adequately funding the schools.
21. The school committee adjourned at 9:10 PM and Sandy made a motion, seconded by Robin to recess. Motioned carried unanimously 8-0.

22. At 9:20, the meeting was again called to order.
23. Meeting minutes of 1/17/07 – Discussed correcting the votes as listed from 5-0 to 6-0, and changing the word “defunct” to “inactive.” Had other discussions but no changes on Whittier, moving the date of the annual meeting. Sandy made a motion to accept the corrected minutes. Seconded by Robin. Motion carried 6-0 with Jach L’Hommedieu and Mike Sweat abstaining.
24. Reviewed the schedule for upcoming meetings
25. Motion to adjourn was made by Ruth Stewart at 9:47 PM and seconded by Jonathon Ayres. Motion carried unanimously 8-0.