

**Official
As of 1/22/09**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
35 Main Street
Thursday, December 18, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Chairman J. Pieroni.

ATTENDANCE

J. Pieroni, J. Danforth, B. Gahara, K. Hughes, N. Comai, M. Miville, D. Pearl, JR
Ouellette, S. Doyon, J. Marasco.

Dr. Charles Littlefield, Superintendent
Karen Lessard, BA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 6, 2008

*J. Danforth motioned to accept the minutes of Nov. 6. Seconded by G. Gahara.
Vote unanimously in favor*

November 20, 2008
Table

December 06, 2008
Table

BUSINESS

Hooksett School District – Budget

Update, D. Argo:

Default Budget was distributed

Language Arts Program: The School Board discussed this at their meeting and they came to no resolution. The meeting results were to present the budget below default and present one warrant for the para professionals contract. All other initiatives would be funded through the fund balance.

The expectation is for a 10% reduction in electricity. This reduction will take a year to be realized. We can compare month to month and this year to last year. We would like to attain more data.

Dr. Littlefield: At our all day budget workshop, we mentioned unresolved Sped Ed costs based on Manchester's cost for that tuition. Those cost were received and the result is a

\$65,000 increase. The board was made aware and they decided to stay with the presented budget, which is below default. They will take a chance on energy conservation, which will allow them to meet those cost.

J. Pieroni: Won't that figure increase the default budget?

K. Lessard: Yes that will increase the default budget so we will be \$113,000 below the default.

K. Hughes: Language arts – if you are not putting it in at all, but looking at a fund balance, you have until the end of this year. That price is good to 2009?

M. Ouellette wants the Para Professional warrant article alone.
On the town side, there were so many articles; it was difficult to pass issues.

Dr. Littlefield: We will be implementing K-2 with this initiative. Sometimes the Hooksett School District moves too fast. I would prefer to implement K-2 and evaluate it and do it very well; that will make 3-5 more successful. We would rather put off that expense for another year.

M. Miville: In my conversations with Mr. Harris at Cawley, he felt he needed more walkie talkies and you funded 2 out of 8. Could we re-install a few more walkie-talkies and find something else in the budget that would make up for that?
I see a laptop computer for \$1500. The walkie-talkies are \$300 dollars each.

Dr. Littlefield: On October 28th, the budget drivers which were presented to the committee and the long range maintenance plan, in one year, communications is a priority which includes an internal communication system. I don't want an inventory of walkie-talkies that will be obsolete. The new one would be a walkie-talkie that could communicate with the PD. Communication has to be done as a district.

M. Miville: A large presentation screen for the gymnasium is in the Cawley budget. They now project on the wall. Is \$1300 a necessary spending?

D. Pearl: I have seen projections on both the wall and the screen and I support this.

J. Marasco: This is also something that can be used by the community. I support this.

S. Doyon: Calculators, when my son and daughter went through west high school, they needed to provide their own. Why are we purchasing calculators??

K. Lessard: These particular calculators are used and required in testing.

B. Gahara motioned to approve the school budget. Seconded by K. Hughes

Warrant Article

M. Ouellette: see file

There will language changes and the union is meeting on Monday to ratify.

The contract is not a wage scale. If we approve a wage scale, we would be subject to the Evergreen clause.

This addresses inequities within the district when compared to other districts.

J. Pieroni stated that no action would be taken on the warrant without the actual warrant article wording presented.

Police Commission correspondence

The repair items were specific to the police department.

J. Pieroni contacted the chief to address the issues that were specifically building issues. I asked if I could meet informally with him to discuss the items.

The police commission has requested a meeting on December 30th with the Budget Committee to review expenditures.

J. Pieroni will represent the Budget Committee at that meeting

MISCELLANEOUS

B. Gahara to provide the list of towns that were used to compare for the fire contracts. This should include hierarchy and salaries.

ADJOURN

The meeting was declared adjourned by the Chair at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan