

**Unofficial  
As of 1/15/09**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING  
Minutes  
Hooksett Memorial School  
Thursday, January 15, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman J. Pieroni called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**ATTENDANCE**

Chairman J. Pieroni, Vice Chair J. Danforth, N. Comai, M. Miville, J. Marasco, S. Doyon, School Board Rep. M Ouellette, Town Council Rep. B. Gahara  
Excused: K. Hughes, D. Pearl, and JR Ouellette

School Board Staff: Karen Lessard, Superintendent Dr. Charles Littlefield

**PUBLIC HEARING**

School District Budget  
Open Public Hearing at 7:00 pm

**School District Budget**

See attached proposed budget "Hooksett School District 2009-2010 Proposed Budget"

Dr. Littlefield: As we prepared for the hearing tonight, I wanted to convey how proud I am to be your Superintendent. This is my 26<sup>th</sup> school district budget. We started on October 26<sup>th</sup> to work and communicate our budget drivers. This established a colloquial atmosphere. The School Board wanted to present a conservative budget. This is below default but moves the district forward. I wanted to end up with a budget that was as transparent as possible. The proof of transparency is when tonight the Budget Chair can answer his own questions; I thank you and I wish that we had this type of relationship everywhere.

J. Pieroni: The default budget is \$26,612,972. The default budget exceeds the budget brought forth. The proposed budget is \$122,455 less than default.

The estimated tax impact of this budget, assuming the expected federal funds from food service and the expected federal grants, which are an estimate, and using the previous assessed rate in October, the impact would be 76 cents per thousand for the school and budget committee's budget since they are the same. That may vary as properties are added to the tax roll. The Fund Balance at the end of the year will also have an impact on that number.

Dr. Littlefield: We took a very conservative approach to revenues. The preliminary numbers we saw indicate we will increase in aid but we are not counting on that money.

**Warrant Articles**

Bargaining agreement with Hooksett Educational Support Professionals. See attached

M. Ouellette: This contract represents a 2.5% increase for both years. This covers the aids, secretaries, janitors, lunch staff, library aids, and the two tech support staff.

The Public Hearing will remain open while other business is conducted.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Library – Mary Farwell, Heather Shumway, Tammy Hooker, Barbara Davis, Mack Roderick  
M. Farwell: There are not a lot of changes in the budget. We are in under the 2.5 percent. Most issues are with personnel. See attached.

We are purchasing five (5) computers for \$4000.00

The copier-leasing price we get is more competitive than what the town received.

### **Growth**

Most of the town departments have a full time administrative assistant which comes with benefits. Currently, our librarian has a secretary 8 hours per week. The problem with that is the Trustees have high expectations and our secretary is doing what she can for a limited amount of hours. We are looking to increase that position 10 hours per week with no benefits.

It is not in the budget, but the notes in the bottom left – about 3 years ago, the Town Administrator undertook a pay equity study. The library was not part of that study. The Council voted to accept the pay equity. As a result the library did their study and their differential was \$37,000. The Council then said they would fund \$20,000. The following year the balance was approved but the budget didn't pass.

This year the Council voted to approve the equity funds but did not include the additional 10 hours for the secretary.

We are asking for \$17,000 for pay equity and \$7000 for the increase in secretarial hours.

### **Warrant Article**

\$31,951 for a full time Children's librarian.

H. Shumway: I was shocked when I came to Hooksett to see there was no full time Children's Librarian. We could be serving this community more if we had someone in there daily. We recognize this is a bad year, but I don't want to miss out on helping the kids.

J. Marasco: The staff and library are outstanding. The selection of books and computers are great. I think even someone part time would be a benefit.

M. Miville: I don't have an issue with letting the voters decide on a warrant article. Would you compromise with a part time person.

H. Shumway: The compromise we came up with was to put it on for 6 months. We need someone with a master in library science. I need them after school and on Saturday when the children are in there. I need someone who will take responsibility and not need to be hand held.

J. Pieroni: Assuming this passes, and you have someone for the half a year; if the budget defaults, you default the amount of money so you will only have half of the position.

M. Farwell: The large expense is for a family plan on the benefits. We probably won't need the family plan, but we must budget for it.

C. Soucie will be asked to respond to the question of funding for the default budget with respect to the position.

S. Doyon asked if the library could provide a tour for the Budget Committee.

**Budget Committee Meeting scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Town Library at 6:30 pm.**

Close Public Hearing on Hooksett School District Budget 8:10 pm.

John Marasco resigned his position due to scheduling conflicts

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan