

Official

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Hooksett Town Hall

35 Main Street

Thursday, December 20, 2012

6:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER

M. Miville called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

M. Miville, F. Bizzarro, D. Argo, J. Hyde, C. Morneau, T. Jennings, T. Keach, S. Peterson, T. Lizotte and N. Haas.

T. Young - Absent

Village Water, Central Water - Absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 13, 2012

T. Lizotte motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by J. Hyde.

Vote unanimously with D. Argo and N. Haas abstained

PUBLIC INPUT

C. Akstin, 55 Sterling Ave and School Board member: I understand there have been cuts made to teachers' positions. I understand the role of the Budget Committee is to cut line items but I feel the distribution of the positions should be left to the School Board. As a parent, I believe they do need those positions. I wanted to relay that as a parent and as a School Board member.

OLD BUSINESS

School District Budget Review

D. Argo apologized for being absent at the last Budget Committee meeting.

Cawley (continued from Dec. 13)

M. Miville commented that he doesn't feel the expansion of the administrative bureaucracy is in the best interest of the citizens or the students. He expressed that personal development should be funded personally. If staff takes courses to improve their personal resume, they should be paying for it themselves.

D. Argo: These courses are making them better teachers which benefit the students. It does improve their resume but it also is something that attracts teachers to come to the district. Teachers start at a very low salary. As certified teachers, they still have a

learning curve and there is professional development to make them a better teacher and the incentive is the steps on the salary scale. The courses are in their field.

M. Miville: I understand these are education classes but I don't think the taxpayers should subsidize these courses.

T. Keach: I want to point out that we, as Budget Committee members, have the opportunity for professional development which is funded by the Town.

J. Hyde: If we are not talking about lines in the budget, we should move on.

M. Miville: The difference is we as committee members are not paid and as volunteers should understand the budgetary process vs. teachers who are paid.

T. Lizotte: Personnel request form stating in excess of 311100 5117-2-05-00 – not approved by SAU

MEMORIAL

N. Haas: Many of the questions I had at the workshop have been zeroed out. 2140 5330 00061 – Psychometric Testing district wide – proposed at \$90,000 with an actual average of \$76,000.

D. Argo will look into the disparity in spending.

T. Lizotte: It is a method of evaluating Special Needs students and the services to be provided.

N. Haas: There are repairs to Memorial 2600 5432 104 32. Looking at the trends of repairs, typically its \$18,000 and this year it is proposed as \$26,000.

M. Miville: Concerns of audiovisual lines additional replacement. 2220 5731 10 410 (310) (510) for \$3300 each.
It is for MacBooks, I pad, Apple TV's, I pod touch.
10310 Memorial - \$3300 is for MacBook pro (1099) Apple TV 99. Smart \$1750 IPod 250 easy speak record \$70 and \$327 shipping

M. Miville motioned to reduce line (310) to \$1. Seconded by T. Lizotte

D. Argo requested the opportunity to get more information on the need prior to the budget committee taking action.

***J. Hyde call the question
Vote 5:5 motion fails***

J. Hyde motioned to reduce the line (310) by \$2300. Seconded by T. Lizotte.

J. Hyde given the economy we need to be more selective although I also think some is needed.

T. Lizotte: Every year this additional equipment is increased. I pads are added to the mix. IPods are enhanced. We have 140+ of the iPads in the school. Last year, I think they were used 40% of the time and that is generous. I think it is more like 20%. This is for the media center and students are not often in there. We are talking about an investment this year in a curriculum at a cost of \$330,000. That's a big hit for the community. We need to make some cuts to offset this.

T. Jennings: There is also funding in the tech fund for I Pads. There are more and more lines that have the same request for I Pads. How many I Pads are being pushed through that we need or do not need?

D. Argo: I take exception to Jason determining what is educational and what is not. Everything in the budget is for the education of the students. When a statement is made as to whether it is educational or not, I don't feel you are qualified to make that determination. Todd, where did you get the information of when the equipment was being used?

T. Lizotte: Matt Woodrow provided me with the sign out sheets of how often the equipment is used. I also visit the school about once per week. I have seen labs that are down to 24 units when there should be 28. I am confident in the numbers if Matt is.

D. Argo: I understand you want to make cuts, but when you say, it is not for education, that is an assumption. We don't lump all the technology in one line for a reason. We put the technology where it is, either the media center or a classroom.

J. Hyde motioned to call the question.

Vote 9:1

Vote on motion:

Vote 6:4 motion carries (\$1000)

T. Lizotte motioned to reduce lines (410) and (510) reduced by \$2300 to \$1000 each. Seconded by J. Hyde.

Vote 7:3 (\$1000/ea.)

Public Input

Dave Levesque, 29 Morrill Road: I want to comment on the Common Core Facilitator. I am a teacher in another district and I am concerned that in the recent testimony that has come out regarding the Facilitator's position. I don't know why the Board is still looking at the Facilitator when overwhelmingly the staff didn't want the facilitator but rather a representative from each school. I don't think the staff is willing to up the classroom numbers for this position. I ask this committee and the School Board to reconsider the Facilitator. The School Board said the budget was already sent to the Budget Committee.

I ask the committee to offer stipends to the teachers for representative to help with the Common Core. I ask the funds be left for this need. I am not in favor of eliminating it totally but rather better allocating it.

T. Lizotte: The School Board voted to shift those positions from Memorial to Cawley. We did eliminate the funding for one position and we will discuss the facilitator under the Underhill budget. We can only make cuts, we cannot change policy. That goes back to the School Board.

M. Miville motioned to reduce lines 5735 310 (410) and (510) AV equipment replace to \$1200/ea. 1317 – 1200, 2251 – 1200, 2662 – 1200. Seconded by J. Hyde.

***T. Lizotte motioned to call the question
Vote unanimously in favor***

Vote 8:2 motion carries (\$1200/ea.)

2220 5733 149 New furniture of Media Center (\$1200)

M. Miville motioned to reduce to \$1. J. Hyde seconded.

N. Haas stated it is for six (6) oak stools for workstations (\$200/ea.)

Vote 7:3 motion carries (\$1)

2220 5733 259 new furniture for Cawley (\$2400)

M. Miville motioned to reduce to \$1. Seconded by J. Hyde.

Replace tables with mobile flexible arrangements.

T. Lizotte motioned to amend reduce to \$950. Fails without a second.

Vote 7:3 motion carries (\$2399)

2140 5330 00061 Psychometrics – more information to be provided

UNDERHILL

26735 2-05-32 \$1500 for the new John Deere tractor

C. Morneau motioned to reduce from \$15,000 to 0. Seconded by J. Hyde.

C. Morneau stated that given the economy, the money could be better used and they should utilize the existing tractor and revisit this item next year.

J. Hyde: If repairs are at about \$1400. If you assume 2000/year, it will take 7 years to equal the cost of a new tractor. I agree this should be deferred.

T. Jennings motioned to amend to \$1. Seconded by S. Peterson.

S. Peterson: I need more information on this. We didn't get information on the trade in.

D. Argo: We are budgeting 18 months out. We have not gone out for bid. We get a price and then when we purchase we will get a trade in value and a hard cost.

Vote on amendment 6: 4 amendment carries

Vote on amended motion

Vote 7:3 amendment carries (\$14,999)

S. Peterson had question about the repairs being done in the CIP plan. The email received today says \$88,500 for HVAC to add computer control. Is there a duplicate in the budget and in the CIP?

M. Miville stated the budget HVAC costs were for maintenance and the CIP items were replacement of parts.

T. Lizotte asked if that was a preexisting fund (Building Construction/Reconstruction Fund).

What is the balance of this fund?

T. Lizotte motioned to reduce 11100 5112-1-03-00-000000 Teachers salaries Underhill by \$59,624 which includes benefits for one teacher position for the Common Core Facilitator. Seconded by C. Morneau.

T. Lizotte stated that Mr. Levesque stated that reports have come out regarding the staff's preference to have teachers appointed to lead positions rather than a Common Core. We cannot direct policy but we can eliminate funds designated for that position.

D. Argo: Regardless of what you think about the plan, this reduction is cutting the current workforce. This could impact us down the road.

C. Morneau: We are already down three teachers so we are not cutting three teachers.

D. Argo: We could have just replaced those teachers but we came up with a plan to realign staff without increasing staff. It seems that our transparency will impact us. If we had said nothing, which we didn't have to, we wouldn't have this discussion. If you asked me if we were adding staffing I could have said "No".

M. Miville: the SAU agreed to cut the staff and not replace the retirement teachers because they don't need those teachers. The teachers are saddened that the 3rd grader teacher is being removed.

T. Lizotte: At the beginning Dr. Littlefield laid out the plan for the budget. When I asked if he would add staff, he then said "Well we will have a shift in teachers and a new Common Core Facilitator". At that point, those three people were leaving through attrition and the School Board voted to cut them and transfer them, 2 to Memorial and 1

as Facilitator. The School Board cut those positions. With regard to transparency, you do have a responsibility to be transparent and the School Board was transparent when they made their motion. I made the motion to allow one teacher to accommodate the bubble at 6th grade.

D. Argo: the Administration does not need permission to move staff from school to school. The School Board did not approve the cuts but approved the realignment.

T. Lizotte motioned to call the question

Vote unanimously in favor

Vote 8:2 motion carries (\$1,292,439-59,624)

2600 435-2-05-32 (\$1400) tractor maintenance

C. Morneau motioned to increase \$1000 for tractor maintenance. Seconded by T. Lizotte.

C. Morneau: With the decision to remove the new tractor, the additional money in the maintenance fund is for unforeseen repairs.

Vote 8:2 motion carries (\$2400)

T. Jennings asked about the Transportation Contract.

T. Lizotte would like a copy of the Transportation Contract.

T. Jennings asked if the increased in the Principal and Assistant Principal's salaries was contractual

D. Argo: Yes, these are contractual. The wage pool is a discretionary pool that the Superintendent determines on merit.

T. Keach: We are not obligated to fund contractual items. The School is obligated to pay but we don't have to fund it.

31 24 10 51 11 -1-3-07 (\$86,675)

T. Jennings motioned to reduce the Principal's Salary at Underhill \$4063 to \$82,612. Seconded by J. Hyde.

D. Argo will get the details of the Principal's contract and the years.

T. Jennings withdrew the motion

3124 10 5111-0-00-96 School District wide (\$25,415.61)

T. Jennings motioned to reduce \$15,415 for a balance of \$10,000. Seconded by T. Lizotte

T. Jennings: Given the contractual increases, it is difficult to justify another \$25,000 in wage increases.

Vote 5:5 motion fails

31 1105 5561 3 0000 000000 H.S. Tuition

T. Lizotte motioned to reduce \$100,000. J. Hyde

T. Lizotte stated that the proposed reduction is based on decreases in enrollment as stated on November 1, 2012. The numbers represent a drop in eighth graders to 152 from 196. As indicated by the SAU it will drop 48 kids.

F. Bizarro: Do you know what the number of students in grade 12 is this year. You need to compare those numbers.

T. Lizotte withdrew motion and request current enrollment figures as well as how the high school tuition number was calculated.

Which positions are getting contractual increases and which positions are included in the merit pool?

Frank Bizarro asked about competitive bids for Natural Gas.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

M. Miville: There was a question about a laptop.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan