

Official

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

Hooksett Town Hall

35 Main Street

Thursday, December 13, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

M. Miville called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

ATTENDANCE

M. Miville, F. Bizzarro, J. Hyde, C. Morneau, T. Keach, T. Jennings, T. Young, S. Peterson, T. Lizotte.

N. Haas Excused

D. Argo, Village Water, Central Water - Absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 6, 2012

F. Bizzarro motioned to approve the minutes of December 6, 2012. Seconded by T. Lizotte

Vote unanimously in favor

December 8, 2012

T. Lizotte motioned to approve the minutes of December 8, 2012. Seconded by F. Bizzarro

Vote unanimously in favor.

PUBLIC INPUT

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Committee Meeting

T. Young motioned to remove from the table. T. Lizotte seconded.

T. Young motioned to submit the Budget Committee budget for \$7101 to the Council. Seconded by T. Lizotte.

Vote unanimously in favor

School District Budget

T. Lizotte motioned to accept the 2013-2014 for \$26,732,065.01 school district budget. Seconded by T. Young.

Vote unanimously in favor.

T. Young asked for an explanation of how the default budget is higher than the proposed budget.

The Budget Committee discussed how the default budget is prepared.

M. Miville stated the default is the appropriation from last year plus the contractual requirements.

The \$26,770,875 is the default budget. The Budget Committee requests the analysis of how the default was created.

T. Lizotte: I would like to limit the new positions to possibly one teacher. The Facilitator position is nebulous but I am open to discussing the possibility of one additional teacher. On the tech side, we were told we need equipment. Tom asked, where are we going. They needed the computers for the test and then they said they have 240 units that are test ready. Then the answer morphed to the equipment is for the classroom. They need a better plan for technology. Now they are getting 60 units (chrome books) rather than 20 that were originally planned. That could be a game changer for technology. We need to reduce the tech budget substantially. \$84,000 could be reduced to \$20,000.

J. Hyde: If you look at the actual enrollment numbers, they were higher 2 years ago so I don't think they need the additional teachers. Attrition is the perfect way to reduce the budget and no one is hurt. I've also read that the federal government does not require common core. They say common core or the equivalent. I had the feeling that there are other ways to do it. I'm not the educator but I know how the real world works and when the federal government mandates something, it is for something or the equivalent. I am not the expert, however necessity breeds invention. We need to think outside the box on how to educate our children.

We still didn't get the information on how much we get from the federal government and what it will cost us to live without it.

S. Peterson stated that they do not need to add another position for a Common Core facilitators. I also think that 60 chrome units is a lot of units when you want to try them out. If you haven't conducted a full review, why are you buying 60?

T. Young: If they were going to get rid of the textbooks, I could support more electronics and if they are planning to go all electronic, when is the timetable for full implementation? Are they willing to eliminate hard copy books?

T. Lizotte: They are not going to give the kids individual computer. This equipment will go into the lab. Everything going digital is way out in the future.

T. Young: I agree but every year we are looking at 20-30 pieces of new equipment. So with all these computers and the BYOD, we should have enough electronic for every child. There should be a plan and a timeframe for when this will happen.

T. Lizotte: The problem is there is no technology plan. They buy equipment and then figure out where they will use it. There is no grand plan.

T. Young: I would like the Technology Plan. I also looked at the annual population. I also looked at housing where we have had a substantial change. Building permits are down but that means nothing, you need to look at the Certificate of Occupancy.

The charts provided have an upward trend on one chart and a downward trend on the other two. The chart for historical enrollment goes from -75 to -470 in the last year out. That is a substantial drop in population. We are building a lot of older person housing in town. There is a bubble in 6th grade which is similar to the bubble that left the 8th grade last year. I have no problem adding one teacher to 6th grade next year.

M. Miville: The committee voted last year that they do not support fund balance spending as a strategic plan. The School has reduced next year's budget by purchasing books for common core with fund balance. There should be more transparency for the voters and should be included in the operating budget.

T. Jennings: Because I have already seen teacher in the schools implementing the common core changes, it make it difficult for me to support a Common Core facilitator.

C. Morneau: Having highly qualified teacher, I find it hard to believe that they cannot make the shift in curriculum. With Technology, I have an issue with adding equipment but we don't know what they are doing with the infrastructure to support his equipment.

T. Lizotte: They did an upgrade of the wireless system recently. Bandwidth will still be an issue but it sounds like they have a handle on that. To go back to fund balance, we have approved that spending for emergencies like a cruiser. The departments did bring these items to me. The School wants to fund balance spend the curriculum for math. I can support that investment because at least they are using money that has already been raised and cut this budget a little deeper.

The 60 chrome books are being purchased with the \$60,000 warrant article from last year. This year's proposal is for \$84,000.

T. Young motioned that we address each school's book and identify the lines we want to address. Seconded by S. Peterson.

Vote unanimously in favor

Cawley

T. Lizotte stated the greatest impact at Cawley is the shifting of the positions from Memorial to Cawley. I support option 3 is for one (1) teacher at Cawley.

T. Young motioned to approve the funding for one (1) teacher position for the 6th grade to offset the bubble class. (Option 3: \$41,459, FICA \$3180, retire \$5385, - \$50,024 total) of the proposal. Seconded by T. Lizotte.

Line 31-11-5112-2-05 Remove \$50,024.

T. Jennings stated that she doesn't feel that an increase of 3 students in each classroom warrants a \$50,000 increase in staff.

F. Bizzarro: This has been in the budget for 3 years and has been denied. They are willing to make the budget adjustments in class size to make this plan work.

M. Miville: We can't determine whether the policy is sound and we cannot tell them what they can hire. We can only cut funding.

***T. Young motioned to modify the original motion to remove \$59,624, which includes \$600 in benefits. Seconded by T. Lizotte.
Vote unanimously in favor***

***J. Hyde asked to call the question.
Vote unanimously in favor.***

***Vote on modified motion
8:1 motion carried.***

2840-5735-00033 Tech. Computer replacement (3 schools) I Pad Underhill \$84,220.

T. Lizotte motioned to reduce the line \$52,000. Seconded by T. Young.

T. Lizotte stated this would allow them to buy 10 pieces for Cawley and 10 for Memorial and about 10 for Underhill as well as fund the Underhill I Pads but it will remove the I Pads for the Cawley Media Center. They have carts there which would be better in the classroom.

T. Young: Was the purpose of the I Pads for testing?

T. Lizotte: It was stated that they only have a 1 year warrantee and two have cracked screens.

G. Hyde: Does that allow sufficient funds to purchase protective cases?

T. Lizotte: I don't care, it is funding for more devices at each school.

T. Jennings: Are the I Pads at Underhill even needed or wanted. If 3rd graders are using I Pads for testing, why can't they use the same equipment that the 1st and 2nd grade is using? I don't think they can justify the need for testing.

T. Jennings motions to reduce the line to 0. Seconded by J. Hyde.

T. Jennings stated since they have \$60,000 now to use for technology, they need to decide how to allocate these funds now. This will prevent a surplus of tech equipment. This is a want and not a need.

G. Hyde: I understand the position but leaving a \$1 allows them to play with the money. Mr. Lizotte spends time researching this information and I respectfully ask to call the question.

Vote to call the question

4:5 failed

Continue discussion

M. Miville stated he does not support cutting that much out of the technology line. Mr. Lizotte stated there are 240 computers for testing but they have until 2015 to solve that issue.

Vote on amendment to 0.

Roll Call

<i>T. Keach</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>C. Morneau</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>T. Lizotte</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>F. Bizzarro</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>S. Peterson</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>J. Hyde</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>T. Young</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>T. Jennings</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>M. Miville</i>	<i>No</i>

Amendment fails 4:5

Original motion to remove \$52,000.

T. Lizotte modified his original motion to remove \$68,000. Seconded by T. Young.

T. Lizotte: After hearing the concerns of the budget committee, I reduced the number and this translates to about 15 computers at Memorial and Cawley.

F. Bizzarro: The \$60,000 approved last year is in a trust fund and is not for replacement and repair. I support the reduction to \$32,220 but not a reduction to \$16,220.

Vote 7:2 motion carries (bal. \$16,220)

2840 5861020533 USB keyboard mouse bundles... \$9925.

T. Lizotte motioned to reduce the line \$4000. Seconded by G. Hyde.

T. Lizotte: This reduces the line by half. I think that is plenty for the need and repairs of desktops.

F. Bizzarro noted that the history of this line shows the actual was between \$7500 and \$8500 with a proposed of \$9900.

Vote 7:2 motion carries (bal. \$5925)

2410 5731 257 additional office equipment \$2561.25

T. Lizotte motioned to reduce the line to \$1. (Vizio high definition television, cables with Ethernet, monitor cables, cable wrap, university flat panel and cart for parent presentations and meetings.) Seconded by S. Peterson.

G. Hyde motioned to amend the motion to 0. Seconded by T. Jennings

G. Hyde stated that they can accomplish the goal with less money. There are other ways to accomplish this with existing projectors. Apple TVs are a luxury items and will not impact education.

T. Jennings stated he believes there is currently one (1) at Underhill on display in the hall.

Vote 6:3 motion carries to amend to 0.

Vote on amended motion

Vote 6:3 motion carries.

2840 5642 00033 – District Wide Software

T. Lizotte motioned to increase this line \$2000 from \$14,420 to \$16,420. Seconded by Frank Bizzarro.

On Saturday, I requested the quotes for these packages. The Software upgrades requested were indicated correctly but he quote for the Power School was \$2000 more than they budgeted. Power School is utilized for parents to access grades etc.

Vote 8:1 motion carries

T. Keach left the meeting at 9:15 pm

2410 5114 257 – Additional secretarial time (\$1500)

T. Lizotte motioned to reduce the secretarial time to \$1. Seconded by T. Jennings.

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T. Lizotte: This is a new line and given the economic times, this should not be funded.

T. Lizotte withdrew his motion for more information.

1100 5731 2515

1100 5731 2515 – Elmo document camera \$665

M. Miville motioned to reduce this line to 0 (Elmo document camera) to 0. Seconded by T. Lizotte.

M. Miville stated this is a want and not a need.

Vote 6:2 motion carries

1420 5731 2525 (Portable score boards) \$3793.85

T. Lizotte motioned to reduce the line to \$1. Seconded by C. Moreau.

Field improvements are in the CIP which could include score boards.

Vote 7:1 motion carries

1100 5731 2523- Elmo doc cameras \$1322.50

M. Miville motioned to reduce the line to 0. Seconded by G. Hyde.

Vote 7:1 motion carries

1100 5610 2 523 math supplies \$513.95

T. Lizotte motioned to reduce this line to \$1 (smart board). Seconded T. Young

Vote 5:3 motion carries

1100 5610 2515 LA supplies \$1250

T. Lizotte motioned to reduce this line \$250. Seconded by T. Young.

Vote 6:2 motion carries (bal. \$1000)

1270 5731 250 Mac Book for ALPS - \$1528.35

M. Miville motioned to reduce the line to 1.00. Seconded by T. Lizotte.

Vote 6:2 motion carries

PUBLIC INPUT

ADJOURNMENT

G. Hyde motioned to adjourn. Seconded by S. Peterson.

Vote unanimously in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan