

North Hampton Budget Committee
MINUTES
November 6, 2003

Chairman Robbie Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Paul Fitzgibbons, Sharon Halle, Homer Johnson, Larry Miller,
Robbie Robinson, Susan Smith and Cynthia Swank
Absent: Peter Simmons, Lloyd Sullivan

1) Presentation of proposed school district budget

Sharon Halle and Fred Englebach presented the proposed school budget for 2003-2004.

Highlights include: 2.9% overall increase over this year; 4.5% contractual salary increase for teachers; two fewer classroom teachers; no stipends for UNH interns; elimination of 5 educational aide positions and the Reading Recovery teacher; elimination of the AV coordinator position; elimination of the speech pathologist position; reduced stipends for school board members; an increase in costs for SAU services; an estimated 28% increase in cost of employee benefits.

There was discussion of: student-teacher ratios and pupil projections (485 students); mentor teachers; teacher salary steps and longevity stipends; interns; elimination of benefits from long-term substitute position; school board members' support of proposed budget; estimates for supplies; classroom libraries; textbook purchases; musical instrument replacement program; grant funding of Reading Recovery position; the full-time school psychologist position; the SAU Action Plan including NWEA testing and the School Improvement Plan.

There was discussion of the inclusive model of delivery of special education services and, with the elimination of positions, concern about the possible long-term budgetary consequences, including costs of out-of-district placement. Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and the predictability of placement were also discussed.

There was a request for a list of all job positions in the school. Differences were noted in line item amounts from the original current-year budget as it was adopted and the first quarter report and proposed budget. The committee would like line items to be consistent in the reports and contain explanation where adjustments have been made.

The school budget presentation will continue on Wednesday, November 12 at 7 p.m. in the North Hampton Public Library.

2) Consideration of minutes Oct 15, Oct 28

Motion to accept the Oct 15 minutes as written by Cynthia Swank, seconded by Paul Fitzgibbons; vote passed 5-0 with Sharon Halle and Homer Johnson abstaining.

Motion to consider Oct 28 minutes by Sharon Halle, seconded by Cynthia Swank. Discussion and amendments to minutes. Approved 6-0 with Susan Smith abstaining.

Motion to adjourn by Susan Smith, seconded by Homer Johnson. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Kane
Recorder
(Approved 11/12/03)