

North Hampton Budget Committee
MINUTES
Public hearing for the proposed school district warrant
January 15, 2004

Chairman Robbie Robinson began the public hearing to at 7:05 p.m. He invited the audience to address their concerns and questions to the budget committee and school board. He introduced the members of the budget committee.

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

School board representative to the budget committee Mary Coppinger introduced the other board member and members of the administration.

Robbie Robinson read through the articles and each line item in the proposed school district budget and waited for questions. There were none.

After the last line item, Andrew Hart of Mill Rd. stepped to the microphone to speak. He said he wished to see the \$9000 stipend for UNH interns reinstated in the budget for reasons of continuity of instruction and economics.

Marcia Gagnon of Woodknoll Rd. asked if Hampton withdrew when our bill for SAU services would increase. School board member Kim Kisner said withdrawal would be effective July 1, 2005. She also asked why the total employee benefit amount was different. Answer: the original estimate of benefits costs had been \$20,000 higher.

Susan Spencer of Chapel Rd. asked about enrollment projections. Mary Coppinger said they will remain roughly the same or increase. 485 students are projected for next year.

Lori Booth of Woodknoll Rd. asked whether the 30 MAC computers proposed had to be MACs; she also questioned the need for a full administrative staff. Mary Coppinger said the SAU had strongly recommended the current number of administrators.

Tom Beattie asked if the board had analyzed the impact of the increased computer testing (2 months of lab time) mandated by NCLB and the impact of budget cuts, especially in SPED. In making cuts, said Mary Coppinger, the board tried to preserve classroom teachers.

At the conclusion of the public hearing, the budget committee met to review and vote on each article.

Homer Johnson made a motion to recommend Article 1 and Cynthia Swank seconded. After discussion and information from tech committee member Tim Harned, the committee voted 6-3 to recommend Article 1 appropriating \$41,700 to purchase 36 computers.
(For: HJ, LS, MC, PF, LM, CS; Against: SS, RR, PS)

Peter Simmons made a motion, seconded by Homer Johnson, to recommend Article 2 to replace carpet in the library, music room and school office for \$11,700. Passed unanimously.

Homer Johnson made a motion, seconded by Cynthia Swank, to recommend Article 3 to authorize the school to expend funds from the Capital Reserve Account established to enlarge and improve playing fields and grounds. When this money is spent, the account will close. Plans for improvements are available from Altus Engineering. The vote was unanimous to recommend.

Homer Johnson moved and Paul Fitzgibbons seconded to recommend Article 4, the proposed school district operating budget of \$6,156,538, with a default budget of \$6,228,144. Peter Simmons questioned the yearly percentage increase. Cynthia Swank questioned giving the authority of budget preparation to the SAU. The committee voted 7-2 to recommend the budget.
For: HJ, SS, CS, LM, PF, MC, LS. Against: RR, PS.

Motion to adjourn by Lloyd Sullivan, seconded by Homer Johnson. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Kane
Recording Secretary

Minutes approved 1/17/04