

**North Hampton Budget Committee**  
**MINUTES**  
**December 9, 2004**

Chairman Robbie Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. in the school library

Present: Terry Conklin, Mary Pat Dolan, Paul Fitzgibbons, Don Gould, Henry Marsh, Larry Miller, Robbie Robinson, Peter Simmons, Sue Spencer

1. Review revised proposed School District budget

School board chairman Kim Kisner, Principal Peter Sweet , Business Manager Fred

Englebach and school board rep to the budget committee Henry Marsh presented the school district budget, providing an overview and answering questions.

The school board reduced the proposed operating budget \$124,244, from the original amount of \$6,613,917 to the revised \$6,489,673 as per their understanding of the budget committee's request on 12/1/04. The new amount is below the default operating budget (\$6,490,673). A default budget is the current year's operating budget plus contractual increases.

Kim Kisner reviewed line items in which cuts had been made since December 1, including maintenance items, change of health insurance rate, and new initiatives to increase Spanish instruction and add lacrosse.

One of the board's main objectives is to retain current levels of staffing, especially as part of the model of delivering special education services in-house. There was extensive discussion of the SPED model, the district's legal obligations to SPED students, and student-teacher ratios. Proportions of SPED students and money spent on SPED are roughly equal to other schools. The committee requests more information on financial and qualitative comparisons to other schools' SPED expenditures, particularly Rye. \*

There was discussion of the school's vision/mission and school improvement plan, the purpose of the math coordinator, the town's increasing tax rates, the value added to property by an award-winning school district, and the federal government's lack of funding for SPED. The committee requests the school's per

pupil expenditures as set by the state, and in comparison with state figures. \* The school will provide a breakdown of staff numbers and map of computer technology throughout the building.

The committee requests the teacher step and track grid. \* Sue Spencer also suggested comparisons with other towns of school budget as a percentage of town budget would be interesting. It was suggested that the school include its vision and mission at the public hearing.

There was discussion about a \$9,000 line item for intern pay. The committee would like numbers comparing paid vs. non-paid interns, including associated costs such as substitute and lunchroom pay. \* There was discussion of reducing third grade from 3 to 2 teachers, as there will be just 40 students in that grade next year. Ms. Kisner said 20 or more students per classroom may violate state law for square footage per pupil. There was discussion of merit pay and sick days.

Larry Miller said that because of the tax situation in town and the need for 2 more police officers there should be further cuts to the school budget, but suggested the school professionals and board should make them as they are better informed. There was discussion as to whether the budget committee had asked for a cut to below the default budget (4.1%) or to a 3% increase over the current year.

Paul Fitzgibbons made a motion that the budget committee recommend to the school board that they revise the school district budget not to exceed 3% above the 2004-05 budget, for a total operating budget of \$6,422,410 or less. Second by Larry Miller. The school board will submit a revised budget to the committee. A meeting will not be scheduled if the committee is satisfied with the information and budget reductions. Vote on the motion: unanimous, with Henry Marsh abstaining.

\* Actionable items

## 2. Review draft minutes from 12/1/04 budget committee meeting

Don Gould made a motion to approve the minutes; second by Paul Fitzgibbons. Terry Conklin and Peter Simmons offered amendments, which were noted. Vote to accept minutes with changes: unanimous, with Larry Miller abstaining.

Motion to adjourn by Don Gould, seconded by Terry Conklin. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m. Next meeting will be held on December 21 at 7 p.m. in the Mary Herbert Conference Room to review revised town budgets. The public hearing for the proposed town and school budgets will be held January 11 at 7 p.m. at North Hampton School.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Kane  
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Budget Committee 2-3-05