

DRAFT Minutes
NORTH HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
Meeting
Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Attendance

Attendees: (1) Robbie Robinson, Chairman; (2) Mary Pat Dolan; (3) Paul Fitzgibbons; (5) Henry Marsh, School Board Representative; (6) Susan Spencer; (7) Amy Kane, Recording Secretary. Members Absent: (1) Terry Conklin; (2) Don Gould, Selectmen Representative; (3) Larry Miller; (4) Peter Simmons. Guests: (1) Robert Copp, North Hampton representative to the Winnacunnet Budget Committee; (2) Fred Engelbach, SAU 21 Assistant Superintendent for Business

Mr. Robinson called the meeting into session at 7:01 p.m. in the Mary Herbert Conference Room.

Items Considered

Review of 2nd quarter North Hampton School District expenditure report

Mr. Engelbach presented highlights of the 2nd quarter budget, ending Dec. 31. He said expenditures were on target; the budget will be fully expended by the end of the fiscal year. Two significant variations were: a budgeting error in the health insurance account; and an overbudgeted salary account. Mr. Englebach said the two would roughly cancel each other out. Budget pressures at the end of the quarter were showing in the tuition reimbursement, snow removal, and fuel oil accounts.

Ms. Dolan asked Mr. Marsh if the School Board had any budget concerns. Mr. Marsh said the Board reviews expenditures each month and does not have any major concerns at this time. He said the Board revisited the cost of school lunches in January and does not plan to raise the price of lunch again this year.

Q & A with Robert Copp, regarding the Winnacunnet district budget

Mr. Copp described the operations of the Winnacunnet Budget Committee. He said the committee has evolved from being antagonistic to being more realistic, presenting a budget to voters that better reflects what kids need that year. He said the committee asks for a 10% cap on line items, though it can't mandate. There are 7 members, including 1 from the Winnacunnet School Board, a rep from each town, and an at-large member.

Mr. Robinson asked if the committee analyzed population vs. cost. Mr. Copp said the high school population increases by about 120 students per year, and stands at about 1,300 students currently, with 220 from North Hampton.

Mr. Copp shared more numbers. There are 7 administrators, 85 teachers, 7 guidance counselors and a director, 12 custodians, 700,000 square feet of space, 3 buildings (main, ROTC, tech) plus 18 modular classrooms. The overall budget is \$18 million, with a \$2 million bond issue for building. Proposed budget is a 4.5% operating increase. The increase is primarily due to construction: rent on modulars (\$100,000) must still be paid until construction is complete; the new construction will require electricity, heat, water, increased maintenance staff.

The new gym, with two additional classrooms, will be completed by June 2005 and available for use by the four towns, like the auditorium. There will be an increase in the buildings and grounds account because 150 parking spaces will be added, increasing the cost of snow removal. The budget increase also reflects an additional speech and language person, more curriculum development, and an increase in tuition cost for students attending Seacoast School of Technology. Construction will increase the space by 40% and lead to a 17% increase in the total budget, said Mr. Copp.

Mr. Marsh asked how many students the addition is designed to handle. Mr. Copp said that, when construction is complete, the high school will accommodate 1,450 students. Growth is predicted to level off after this year's 8th grade class enters. The gym will have a total assembly area, including bleachers and chairs, of 3,000.

Mr. Copp and Mr. Englebach distributed and explained three handouts with committee members: the proposed Winnacunnet School District Budget for 2005-06; Winnacunnet Assessment Comparison 2004-05 vs. 2005-06; and the Distribution Per Town of the WHS 2005-06 budget. The formula for the each town's share of the budget is based 50% on equalized valuation of the town and 50% on ADM (Adjusted Daily Membership) of student population from the town. As Seabrook's valuation is decreasing, other towns are picking up a greater cost share.

Before adjournment there was brief discussion concerning the February 24 meeting, including members' attendance by conference call on cell phone. Mr. Robinson said this would be discussed at a later date as it was not on the agenda for the evening.

As the committee would not meet again before elections, members thanked outgoing member Mr. Fitzgibbons for his service on the Budget Committee.

Adjournment

Mr. Fitzgibbons moved and Ms. Spencer seconded the motion to adjourn. *The vote was unanimous (5-0).* The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Kane

Recording Secretary

These minutes are DRAFT until approved by the Budget Committee.