

C. McKeef

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The February 29, 2012 Joint FY13 School Budget public hearing with the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and Orleans Finance Committee Meeting was convened by Chairman Ms. Gwen Holden-Kelly at 6:50 p.m. in the Nauset Room of the Orleans' Town Hall. Present constituting a quorum were Members, Mr. Mark Carron, Mr. Larry Hayward, Mr. Dale Fuller, Mr. Paul Rooker, Mr. Rick Sigel and Mr. William Weil. Members absent were Mr. Ed Barr and Mr. John Hodgson. Also attending from the BOS was Chairman Margie Fulcher, Ms. Sue Christie, Mr. David Dunford, Mr. Jon Fuller, Mr. Sims McGrath and Town Administrator Mr. John Kelly.

Review of the FY13 Orleans Elementary School (OES) Budget 08:39 on Video Tape

Dr. Richard Hoffman, Superintendent and Ms. Diane Carreiro, OES Principal gave an overview presentation of the elementary school budget for FY13.

Many questions were raised concerning the chart supplied that showed the per pupil cost comparison of the Orleans school and others. Orleans was the highest in the region at \$23,905, Eastham at \$20,704, Wellfleet at \$18,707, Brewster at \$15,239 and the state average at \$13,053. The OES has an average class size of 16 students. Regular education increased 2.33% over FY12 while special education increased 3.0% for a total of \$3,214,137 which comes to an overall 2.52% budget increase. These figures do not include benefits.

Some budget items of note that were discussed were instructional supplies increased over 24%, building and grounds increased over 42%, special needs transportation increased 16.3%, regular transportation increased 4.21%, instructional supplies increased 24.3%, cafeteria services increased 15.86% and administration increased 8.47%.

Special education (currently 44 students of which 10 are in grade 5) and school choice raised many questions. It was noted that next year the elementary school will accept school choice students for the first time but will have a limited quantity available.

Follow-up issues were:

Dr. Hoffman to answer questions raised by Ms. Fulcher, Mr. Siegel and Ms. Holden-Kelly as to why the state cost per pupil is higher than what is shown on the town budget report and how the state develop their figures. He did state that an error in one figure was obviously incorrect (membership count) and the state was notified but they said it can't be changed until the following year.

Dr. Hoffman answered questions raised by Mr. Sigel concerning the state figures not matching the supplied school budget figures which caused the cost per pupil to be inflated. Dr. Hoffman stated that there is an error and he contacted the State however they said it was too late to make any changes for this year.

Mr. David Withrow will supply what other towns have budgeted for administration costs and benefits so that we may compare how Orleans stand.



FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Mr. John Kelly mentioned that we must be sure to allocate all school expenses so that we stay eligible for state aide. As an example, when town employees perform repairs or maintenance for the school it needs to be logged in as such so that it can be shown as an expense when reporting to the state. A procedure needs to be in place for this item.

Review of the FY13 Nauset Regional School (NRS) Budget 00:00 on Video Tape

Dr. Hoffman reported on the school MCAS rankings, study programs such as robotics, aiming to maintain class sizes under 23, provide for students that require special needs, and maintaining a safe and supportive climate.

Dr. Hoffman reported that the cost per pupil is in line with Chatham and Harwich, more students (about 70 in total) are attending the Lighthouse Charter School, and the impact of receiving the high school students from Provincetown Town (estimated at 16 for FY13 and 25 for FY14).

Dr. Hoffman reported that the green program is going very well and that they received bids for the replacement of windows in the range of \$2.5 million to \$2.6 million while the budget was between \$2.7 and \$2.9 million. The request for bids on the roof project was just published.

Follow-up issues were:

Dr. Hoffman was asked by Mr. Dunford to supply the actual expense figures for special needs as there were many questions concerning the expenditures and increases in the special needs budget.

Dr. Hoffman was asked by Ms. Fulcher to supply a chart showing the number of special needs and charter school students broken down by town, region and state. Ms. Fulcher asked Mr. Hoffman if he has he done an analysis on the impact for school choice when the new Monomoy Regional School opens and he replied that he has not done that as of yet.

Dr. Hoffman was asked by Mr. Hayward (second request) to supply a report justifying the increase of school choice students in the middle and high school. Dr. Hoffman replied that he will supply those figures but gave no time table as to when he will supply the report.

Dr. Hoffman was asked by Mr. D. Fuller to supply the current balance of the reserve account as money was taken out last year to cover some expenses.



FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

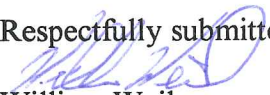
Mr. Hoffman was asked by Ms. Holden-Kelly why the health insurance budget only shows a savings of \$60,000 and Dr. Hoffman stated that he believes it is much higher and will check into the accuracy of what is shown.

Dr. Hoffman was asked by Mr. Weil why the transportation budget increase was over 30% and Dr. Hoffman stated that the increase of \$239,000 was due to only receiving one bid which was an increase of 14% and the fuel costs have increased. In 2010 the contract was set at \$4.91 per mile, 2011 at \$5.26, and 2012 at \$5.50 which does not include the fuel escalation clause in the contract. On that same topic Dr. Hoffman has stated that the new two tier busing schedule is working as the regional schools school students have improved their attendance and grades however, the elementary students tardiness record has increased by 15%.

Adjournment: 00:00 on Video Tape

There being no further business before the finance committee the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted


William Weil
Secretary

Next Meeting:

March 8, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the Nauset Room at the Town Office Building.