

Budget Committee
Minutes
February 14, 2012

Present: R. Barnes, T. Beard, R. Buckley, B. Cummings, C. Guagliumi, S. Heinrich, G. Krupp, A. Schneider, R. Swonger and School Board liaison Alternate C. Ortega
Excused: C. Barbera, M. Beck, and J. Burk
Also present: Superintendent M. Chiafery, Assistant Superintendent Dr. M. McLaughlin, and School Business Administrator M. Shevenell

A. Schneider called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Prior Minutes

S. Heinrich made a MOTION to approve the minutes of February 7, 2012. Second: R. Barnes. G. Krupp suggested several changes. Several members disagreed with the changes and suggested that the meeting tape be reviewed to determine accuracy. After further discussion, S. Heinrich and R. Barnes WITHDREW the MOTION and the second. The secretary was asked to go back to review the meeting tape and provide updated minutes for approval at the next Committee meeting.

Petitioned Warrant Articles

A. Schneider told the Committee that the only petitioned warrant article that has been received by the District was a non-monied warrant article, which seeks to disband the Budget Committee. He said he had asked the lead petitioner to come and speak with the Committee, but due to the time, he requested the petitioner address the Committee either during or after the Public Hearing.

A. Schneider recessed the meeting at 7:22 PM.

The meeting resumed at 8:15 PM

Petitioned Warrant Article (continued)

A. Schneider asked if members wanted to discuss the petitioned warrant article to eliminate the Committee.

A. Schneider told the Committee that he would be out of town on March 7th, thus not at Deliberative Session and wanted to voice his opinion. He said that he became involved in the Committee because he wanted his viewpoint to have eyes and a voice. He felt that the Committee scrutinizes the budget and prevents the possibility of a \$65 million dollar budget being recommended by a majority of two. He indicated that possibly an advisory budget committee was a good idea and noted that there are some difficult budget issues coming in future years.

Transportation Contract

M. Shevenell told the Committee that, while transportation contracts have been offered to Student Transportation of America and Provider Bus Company, neither contract has been finalized. He provided a handout detailing the costs of each bid and explained the rationale behind the choices of the two companies. He said that the Student Transportation contract will be about \$100,000 higher than budgeted but the Provider contract will be about \$300,000 less than budgeted, noting a possible \$200,000 in net savings, if nothing changes.

Discussion included the following:

- It is too early to tell if the District will need more or less than 16 Special Education buses and 3 wheelchair vans.
- The District has no history or experience with either company.
- Regular bus route will have to be re-designed.
- The length of time students spend on busses is one of the most common complaints heard by the School Board and Administration.
- Many items in the budget are estimates.
- Surplus funds go back to the taxpayers to reduce the school's portion of the taxes.

Committee Final Actions

A. Schneider asked if members had any final action on the budget to propose.

S. Heinrich made a MOTION to recommend \$65,505,395 as the operating budget.
Second: R. Barnes.

After members raised concerns that this motion was premature, S. Heinrich and R. Barnes WITHDREW the MOTION and second.

S. Heinrich left the meeting at this time.

G. Krupp made a MOTION to remove \$200K from operating budget for the projected savings in transportation contract. Second: R. Swonger. G. Krupp spoke to his motion by saying he thought that there were adequate funds in the budget do deal with any fluctuation that might occur with the implementation of the new transportation contracts and he wanted to keep the tax bill as low as possible. R. Swonger spoke to his second by saying he did not agree with the motion and felt that the District needs a year of experience with the two bus companies and noted that the budget as proposed was already below the current budget.

Discussion included the following:

- Neither bus company has yet signed a contract with the District.
- There could be a move at Deliberative Session to make a budget adjustment.
- It might be prudent to cut some amount less than \$200,000 once contracts are signed.

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- If changes are made to the operating budget, the School Board and the Budget Committee will have an opportunity to revoke their operating budget recommendation, which will appear on the ballot.
- The School District has had more than \$200,000 in surplus each of the last several years.

A. Schneider called for a hand vote on the motion. MOTION FAILED: 1 – 7 – 1.

No additional changes were proposed.

A. Schneider asked if anyone wanted to make a change to the Committee's recommendations on Warrant Article 3 and 5. No one did.

A. Schneider called for a recommendation on the operating budget.

R. Barnes made a MOTION to recommend the operating budget article as written.
Second: T. Beard.

A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED: 9 – 0 – 0.

Filing Period & Next Meeting

A. Schneider reminded the members that 6 seats were up for election and that filing period started on February 22 and ran through March 2nd.

A. Schneider told the Committee that the next meeting of the Committee would take place after Deliberative session on March 6th. He indicated that there would be reserved seating for the Committee at a table in the front of the room. He thanked the members for their hard work.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

R. Barnes made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: everyone. MOTION PASSED.

A. Schneider adjourned the meeting at 9:00 P.M.