

**Budget Committee
Minutes
January 13, 2015**

Present: R. Barnes, K. Bobbitt, B. Cummings, J. Hanson, S. Heinrich, D. Illg, S. Jacoby, C. Mower, C. Lang and School Board liaison C. Guagliumi

Excused: L. Mooney, C. Skarda and V. Pellegrino

Also present: Superintendent M. Chiafery, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. M. McLaughlin, School Business Administrator M. Shevenell and various department heads

S. Heinrich called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Prior Minutes

B. Cummings made a MOTION to approve the minutes of October 14, 2014. Second: K. Bobbitt. S. Heinrich said that V. Pellegrino should be listed as excused, not absent. MOTION PASSED 9 – 0 – 1, with C. Lang abstaining.

Department Budget Reviews

Before starting the Department Budget Reviews, S. Heinrich asked the members of the Committee to introduce themselves.

Elementary Schools

Principal and Assistant Principal: MES –Emilie Carter and Michelle Romein
TFS – Bridey Bellamare and Julie DeLuca
RFS – Kim Yarlott and Nick Coler

Committee Liaisons: C. Lang, D. Illg, S. Jacoby and C. Mower

Principal Yarlott told the Committee that the elementary school principals had worked together to prepare their budgets. She said there was a slight increase in the supply budget because they had increased the amount budgeted per student from \$19 to \$21. She said the requested furniture replacement was part of the 5-year plan to replace old desks and chairs. She indicated that replacing the carpet in the Thorntons Ferry library was part of the Maintenance budget and was in concert with the planned renovation of this library. She said the renovation would be similar to the library renovation done at Reeds Ferry. She said the proposed budget included funds for staff, supplies and equipment to expand the pre-school program to Thorntons Ferry since it was already at the other two elementary schools. She also said that the principals felt there was a dire need for a computer technician focused solely on the elementary schools.

Liaison Report

C. Lang told the Committee that the liaison team had seen examples of the furniture to be replaced and agreed these items were at the end of their useful life. She said the School

Board may have cut the pre-school expansion to Thorntons Ferry, but she felt it was worth a Committee discussion. She also said the liaison team discussed something that was not in the proposed budget: completion of the classroom storage renovations that had been started several years ago at Masticola Elementary.

Discussion included the following:

- There is a large shredder that is moved around the District, shared amongst the schools. The principals felt, while it was an inconvenience, they felt school shredders were not a necessity and that it was better to have a moving shredder than to have a staff member deliver paper to the shredder.
- Principal Carter felt that the capacity of current classroom storage at Masticola Elementary was adequate and that the original renovation project was complete as is.
- C. Guagliumi confirmed that the School Board cut the pre-school expansion from the budget.
- The digital piano requested in the Masticola Elementary budget is a supplemental piece of equipment, not a replacement. It will be used rather than moving the piano to other locations in the school. (Such movement causes the piano to go out of tune and involves moving the piano up or down a ramp.)

Middle School

Principal and Assistant Principal: Deborah Woelflein and Adam Carragher
Committee Liaisons: R. Barnes, C. Skarda, C. Mower

Principal Woelflin told the Committee the texts she is requesting funds for replacement texts, part of the multi-year plan to do so. In addition, she is requesting funds for new Earth Science texts and funds to update all aspects of the Family and Consumer Science curriculum. She indicated the new science texts would be available at different reading levels. She also indicated that the amount budgeted for testing has gone down. She said the current budget is \$4,000 and that was the amount she has requested for next year.

Liaison Report: R. Barnes said the liaison team had toured the building to see the various labs and condition of the stools that the budget proposes replacing. He said the budget was pretty straightforward. He felt the only things of note were the stools and texts and he felt both were needed. C. Mower said he thought the budget was a modest proposal. He noted that administration appears to spend a lot of time dealing with student mental health issues. He noted that there is a police officer at the middle school, paid for by a Safe and Drug Free School grant.

Discussion included the following:

- Middle school sidewalk repairs were part of the original Maintenance budget but have been cut. Principal Woelflein stated there is some erosion, but repairs are not urgent. The situation is not yet a safety concern. Some members of the Committee noted that there will be a lot of sidewalk issues facing the District relative to “Safe Routes to Schools” and it may be a good idea to do small repairs now.

Minutes 1-13-15, continued

- The middle school purchases classroom text sets rather than texts for each student. Texts are available on-line for homework or, if a student does not have a computer at home, the teacher can print out needed materials
- The District just received another five (5) years of funding from the Safe and Drug-Free School grant.
- The issue of a full time psychologist available for lower grades was raised.

High School

Principal and Assistant Principals: Ken Johnson, Richard Zampieri & Peter Bergeron
Committee Liaisons: B. Cummings, J. Hanson, C. Lang and C. Guagliumi

Principal Johnson told the Committee that he is requesting marketing texts to meet enrollment, and new texts for proposed advanced placement (AP) Spanish and French courses. He indicated the furniture replacement requests are the first installment of a five-year furniture replacement plan and that the athletic equipment requested is for safety and to keep the District “competition ready.”

Liaison report: B. Cummings stated that many of the high school computers are no longer under warranty which is why repair costs have risen. He also said that Guidance has requested replacement laptops for student use. He indicated that the increase in the sports travel budget line is because the NH Interscholastic Athletic Association now requires increased administrative presence at games and administrators do not travel with the teams. He also mentioned some other athletic “competition requests,” for example, an end zone camera and new goal posts. He said that there are increases in the budget because some things, for example sheet music, just cost more. C. Lang mentioned that, while custodial staff does maintenance work on the dust collection system in the Technology Education classrooms, the school is looking for specialists to do major work on this system. She indicated a major portion of the furniture replacement request is multiple items for the cafeteria. C. Guagliumi told the Committee that the end zone camera was cut by the School Board and this might be an appropriate expenditure for the booster club. She also said the School Board wants to have the goal posts inspected before making any decision about replacing them, especially in light of possible effects if and when the track is replaced. She did indicate that if the inspection determines that the goal posts are unsafe, there is enough money in the emergency fund to cover the cost of immediate replacement.

Discussion included the following:

- Enrollment has been declining in the summer driver education program. However, this program is revenue neutral.
- The District’s Technology plan calls for replacing some computers at the high school yearly. The high school currently has some computers donated by BAE.
- Replacing the cabinets and counter tops in the Family and Consumer Science Room has been deferred.
- The computerized “dolls” used in a Family and Consumer Science course cost \$3,000 each.

Minutes 1-13-15, continued

S. Heinrich asked Superintendent Chiafery and Business Administrator M. Shevenell to explain the “cut list” that was provided to the School Board. M. Chiafery said the list was in response to a School Board request of possible budget cuts and was prioritized into tiers of importance. She also indicated that the School Board had cut the items highlighted in red and discussed, but did not cut, the items highlighted in green.

M. Shevenell reviewed the list. S. Heinrich asked that members with questions about items on the list send those questions to him and he would relay them to M. Shevenell.

C. Guagliumi told the Committee that she appreciated the tiered format and the time it took to create the “cut list.” She also said the School Board put in a lot of hard work reviewing the budget.

Public Participation

There was no public participation

Other

Resignation

S. Heinrich announced that he had received a letter from V. Pellegrino, that for health reasons, she is resigning from the Committee. He said he had tried to find a way for her to participate in the meetings from her home, but in the end, felt that accepting her resignation was the right thing to do.

C. Lang made a MOTION to thank her for her service, but accept the resignation of V. Pellegrino with regret. Second: B. Cummings. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

S. Heinrich suggested that, since the Committee had started work on the new budget proposal, the Committee should leave the seat open until the next election. He asked the Committee for consensus on how to proceed. By consensus, the Committee agreed to leave the seat vacant.

S. Heinrich asked for volunteers to take V. Pellegrino’s liaison assignments. J. Hanson offered to take the Library liaison assignment and D. Illg offered to take the Upper Elementary School assignment.

Next Meeting

S. Heinrich said the next meeting of the Committee was January 27th. He indicated that the review of the Special Services budget has been moved to that meeting due to the illness of the Committee liaison lead.

C. Lang made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: B. Cummings. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

S. Heinrich adjourned the meeting at 8:35 P.M.