

Merrimack School District Budget Committee

Minutes February 10, 2015

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

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

S. Heinrich called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Prior Minutes

C. Lang made a MOTION to approve the minutes of January 29, 2015. Second: R. Barnes. MOTION PASSED: 11 – 0 – 1 (S. Jacoby abstained.)

C. Lang made a MOTION to approve the minutes of February 3, 2015. Second: J. Hanson. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Warrant Article Recommendations

S. Heinrich told the Committee that the School Board had decided not to put a bond for a new SAU office on the warrant.

Article 3: Support Staff contract.

C. Lang made a MOTION to recommend Article 3. Second: B. Cummings. There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED: 11 – 0 – 1 (K. Bobbitt abstained.)

Article 5: Discontinue the Asbestos Removal Capital Reserve Fund

C. Lang made a MOTION to recommend Article 5. Second: B. Cummings and R. Barnes. There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED: 11 – 1 - 0 (L. Mooney opposed.)

Article 6: Put \$50,525 into School District Repair Capital Reserve Fund

C. Lang made a MOTION to recommend Article 5. Second: K. Bobbitt.

Discussion included the following

- Articles 5 and 6 are basically a package.
- The School Repair Fund is low.
- There is no tax impact if both Articles 5 and 6 pass.
- As written, if Article fails and Article 6 passes, the School Board can transfer \$1

A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED: 10 – 1 – 1 (L. Mooney opposed and R. Barnes abstained.).

S. Heinrich recessed the meeting at 7:13 P.M until after the Public Hearing.

S. Heinrich reconvened the meeting at 7:46 P.M.

Final Operating Budget Recommendation

S. Heinrich asked the Committee if anyone had any adjustment to propose to the operating budget. No one did.

S. Heinrich made a MOTION to recommend a proposed Operating Budget of \$70,408,919. Second: C. Lang. There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED: 12 – 0 – 0.

Other

1. S. Heinrich announced that a majority of members needed to sign the M.S. 27 budget form. He said that Committee signatures verify the amounts are accurate and did not mean that those who sign the form had voted in favor of the amounts.
2. S. Heinrich told the Committee that that the terms of R. Barnes, B. Cummings, C. Skarda and the vacant seat expire in the spring so there would be four 3-year terms open. In addition, the remaining year of the seat to which D. Illg was appointed needs to be elected so there would also be a 1-year seat on the ballot. He said that filing period would run from February 25th through 5 PM on March 6th. He thanked the Committee members whose terms were expiring and said he hoped they would all consider running for re-election.
3. S. Heinrich said the next meeting of the Committee would be on March 4th, immediately following Deliberative Session. At this meeting, the Committee will approve the minutes from February 10th and would consider changing its recommendations on any warrant article that is amended at Deliberative Session.
4. Several members expressed disappointment that the School Board had decided not put an article for a new SAU office on the warrant.

S. Heinrich thanked the members for their hard work and attention during budget preparation.

C. Lang made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: R. Barnes. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

S. Heinrich adjourned the meeting at 7:56 P.M.

7:56 PM.