

**Merrimack School District Budget Committee
Public Hearing
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 opened the Public Hearing at 7:30 P.M. He asked members to introduce themselves. S. Heinrich said the purpose of the Hearing was for the Committee to take comments from the Public on monied warrant articles before it takes final action on its recommendations.

S. Heinrich said Article 3 on the warrant was approval of a new contract with the support staff. He said changes in the proposed contract include salary and benefit changes, which would result in a need to appropriate an additional \$208,398 for the first year of the contract. He said the Budget Committee recommends this article on a vote of 11 – 0 – 1 and the School Board unanimously recommends this article. He called for public comment on the article. There was none.

S. Heinrich said that Articles 5 and 6 were companion articles. Article 5 dissolves the Asbestos Removal Capital Reserve Fund, putting the remaining funds of \$50,525 into the General Fund and Article 6 takes that same amount from the General Fund and puts it into the School Repair Fund. He said that, since asbestos removal projects are nearing completion and are now part of the operating budget, the Asbestos Removal Capital Reserve Fund is no longer needed. He said the Budget Committee recommends Article 5 on a vote of 11 – 1 – 0 and the School Board recommended this article unanimously He called for public comment on the article. There was none.

S. Heinrich said that Article 6 give the School Board the authority to transfer an amount from \$1 up to \$50,525 from the General Fund to the School Report Fund. He noted that the amount in Article 6 is the same amount as in Article 5. S. Heinrich said the Budget Committee recommends this article on a vote of 10 – 1 – 1 and the School Board recommended this article unanimously. He called for public comment on the article. There was none.

S. Heinrich said that Article 7 was the operating budget. He explained the process the Committee had undertaken to arrive at the current bottom line of the budget: liaison team meetings, department head presentations and Committee work sessions. He said the Committee discussed a lot of different things, large and small, which included adding an additional maintenance worker and/or a full time mental health professional. He said the Committee did not change the budget from that which was approved by the School Board and had voted to present a budget amount of \$70,408,919 at the Public Hearing. S. Heinrich said the Committee would take a final vote on the operating budget after the Hearing. He also said if the operating budget

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article fails, the School Board could decide to implement the default budget or call another meeting to vote on a new budget. He said the default budget is \$71,005,822, which is actually more than the proposed budget. He asked Business Administrator Shevenell to explain the default budget. M. Shevenell explained the default budget and said that the Budget Committee does not determine the default budget, which is approved by the School Board, and the amount of the default budget cannot be changed at the Deliberative Session.

S. Heinrich clarified that the District must provide transportation to a charter school located in Merrimack for students who live in Merrimack.

S. Heinrich called for public comment on the operating budget article. There was none.

S. Heinrich closed the Public Hearing at 7:46 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich