

Merrimack School District Budget Committee
Minutes
February 9, 2016

Present: K. Bobbitt, B. Cummings, S. Heinrich, D. Illg (arrived late), C. Lang (via telephone, after meeting started), J. Guagliumi, J. Hanson, S. Jacoby, C. Ortega and School Board liaison D. Powell

Excused: L. Mooney and C. Mower

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

S. Heinrich called the meeting to order at 7:23 P.M. and asked S. Hanson to lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this time Carol Lang joined the meeting via speakerphone. She was in Satellite Beach, Florida and there was no one in the room with her.

Work Session on Warrant Articles & Operating Budget

S. Heinrich asked if any member of the Committee had any adjustments to the operating budget to propose before the Public Hearing convened.

No one did.

Approval of Prior Minutes

B. Cummings made a MOTION to approve the minutes of January 26, 2016 with corrections. Second: S. Jacoby. A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

C. Ortega made a MOTION to approve the minutes of February 2, 2016 with corrections. Second: S. Jacoby. A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

S. Heinrich recessed the meeting at 7:27 P.M until after the Public Hearing.

S. Heinrich reconvened the meeting at 8:10 P.M.

Committee Final Actions

S. Heinrich told the Committee that it needed to finalize its recommendation as well as take a final vote on the operating budget and asked if anyone wanted to reconsider the Committee recommendation on Article 3.

K. Bobbitt made a MOTION to reconsider the Committee recommendation on Article 3. Second for discussion: D. Powell.

K. Bobbitt told the Committee he was concerned about the lack of information and detail about the contract that was provided to the Committee before the Committee voted its recommendation. He also said that he feels the Committee vote seems to indicate that the Committee is in support of the contract and the general public does not realize that the Committee is only voting on the money portion of the contract.

Minutes, 2-9-16, continued

M. Shevenell told the Committee that the contract proposed increasing the amount budgeted for Staff Development and adding a 3% increase to the current total teacher salary of \$19,300,868. He said those increases plus associated changes to benefit lines resulted in the first year of the contract costing the District \$750,714. He said the important changes in the contract were the 3% salary increase and the ability to offer other health insurance plans. He also said that the base salary of a first year teacher with a Bachelor's degree was between \$32,000 and \$33,000 and that was lower than most areas communities.

J. Hanson asked for some information about past salary increases.

M. Shevenell said that salary increases over the last few years have averaged 2.75 – 3%.

A roll call vote was held on the MOTION to reconsider. MOTION FAILED: 2 – 0 – 8.

K. Bobbitt and S. Jacoby in favor. B. Cummings, S. Heinrich, D. Illg, C. Lang, J. Guagliumi, J. Hanson, C. Ortega and D. Powell opposed.

S. Heinrich asked if any member wanted to make a motion to reconsider its recommendation on Article 5. No one did.

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 \$ Second: D. Powell. There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED: 10 – 0 – 0.

Other:

- A. S. Heinrich said the next meeting of the Committee would be on March 8th, immediately following Deliberative Session. At this meeting, the Committee will approve the minutes from February 9th and would consider changing its recommendations on any warrant article that is amended at Deliberative Session.
- B. C. Lang requested that the January 29th minutes be reviewed and corrected, if needed, to ensure that the budget number indicated was correct.
- C. S. Heinrich reminder the Committee that filing period starts on February 24th and that there would be four seats plus the vacant two year seat up for election.

At this time C. Lang left the meeting.

B. Cummings made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: D. Powell. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

S. Heinrich adjourned the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich