

School Board District Budget Committee
Minutes
November 29, 2022

Present: D. Coakley, L French, G. Groff, C. Lang, C. Mower, M. Murphy, R. Paepke, N. Schoenfeld and School Board liaison N. Halter
Excused: S. Albuquerque, M. Bronchuk and E. Wilson

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

Approval of Prior Minutes

M. Murphy made a MOTION to approve the minutes of November 1, 2022. Second: D. Coakley. There were no corrections. MOTION PASSED: 7 – 0 – 2 (L. French and N Halter abstained.)

Filling the Vacant Seat

C. Mower announced that letters of interest in the vacant seat had been received from Donna LaRue and Michelle Mackey. He said both candidates were present to be interviewed by the Committee and they would be interviewed in alphabetical order.

C. Mower asked Mrs. LaRue to come forward.

Mrs. LaRue introduced herself and told the Committee why she was interested in being on the Committee. She then answered questions from Committee members.

C. Mower thanked Mrs. LaRue and asked Mrs. Mackey to come forward.

Mrs. Mackey introduced herself and told the Committee why she was interested in being on the Committee. She then answered questions from Committee members.

C. Mower thanked Mrs. Mackey and asked the Committee how it wanted to proceed.

C. Lang nominated Donna LaRue.

L. French nominated Michelle Mackey,

Discussion included:

- Both candidates were well qualified.
- Both candidates should consider volunteering for other town and school opportunities if not elected to this open seat.
- This committee walks the fine line between personal and community needs.

A roll call vote was held.

	LaRue	Mackey
Dan Coakley		X
Lee French		X
Gina Groff		X
Naomi Halter		X
Carol Lang	X	
Chuck Mower		X
Mackenzie Murphy		X
Rachel Paepke		X
Naomi Schoenfeld	X	
totals	2	7

C. Mower declared that Michelle Mackey was elected to fill the vacant seat until the next election.

C. Mower recessed the meeting at 8:05 PM to allow the School District Clerk to swear in M. Mackey.

The meeting resumed at 8:15 PM and M. Mackey took a seat at the table.

Next Meeting Dates

C. Mower announced that there will be a joint School Board – Budget Committee meeting on Monday, December 12th at 7 PM in the high school cafeteria. He said the intent was an informal conversation between the Budget Committee and the School Board about the upcoming budget. Since there could be a quorum of Budget Committee members present, this meeting would be a noticed Budget Committee meeting and any member who couldn't attend would need to contact C. Mower.

Members were reminded that budget books will be available after the Administration presents its proposed budget to the School Board and that Committee liaison assignments would be handed out at the joint meeting.

Public Participation

There was none.

Member Comments

N. Halter said the School Board is excited about the joint meeting.

R. Paepke asked for clarification about whether the joint meeting was a Budget Committee meeting or a School Board meeting. It was explained to her that the meeting with the Budget

Committee will be an item on the School Board meeting agenda; however, if a quorum of Budget Committee is present and discussing the budget, it is also a meeting of the Budget Committee.

L. French asked about the status of demolishing the Red Building. He said he hoped the Committee was going to see some follow-through this year since the Committee had put a line in the current budget to raze the building.

C. Mower told him that the Planning and Buidling Committee has received a preliminary report that the first step in the master plan is to demolish the Red Building and that demolishing the Red Building would be part of next year's proposed operating budget. C. Mower said he hoped the School Board would use funds in the current budget to raze the Red Building now.

D. Coakley asked if the Committee could do something to send that message.

L. French made a MOTION to demolish the Red Building this fiscal year using surplus funds.
Second: D. Coakley.

Discussion included the following:

- The Budget Committee can suggest or request that funds be spent but cannot authorize spending funds.
- Demolition of the building, using current funds may help focus interest on funding additional master plan projects.
- Last year's surplus funds have already been returned to the town.

G. Groff left the meeting during the discussion.

L. French asked to WITHDRAW his original MOTION. D. Coakley withdrew his Second.

L. French made a MOTION that the Budget Committee recommends that the School Board demolish the Red Building during the current fiscal year by transferring funds from the current year's budget to the line item in the current budget for this purpose. Second: D. Coakley.

C. Mower said he thought there would be at least \$100,000 in surplus funds that could be transferred to the line to demolish the red building and called for a vote on the motion.

MOTION PASSED: 8 – 0 – 1 (N. Halter abstained.)

C. Lang made a MOTION to adjourn.

C. Mower declared the meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich