

Newfound Area School District

Budget Committee Meeting
Draft Minutes

September 24th, 2013

6:30pm

at Newfound Regional High School room 106

Budget Committee Members: Sharon Nelson, Groton; Fran Wendleboe, New Hampton; Jeff Bird, Bridgewater; William Joseph, Bristol; Simon Barnett, Danbury; Harold "Skip" Reilly, Alexandria (arrived 7:33 pm)

District Staff: Dan Rossner, Business Administrator; Michael Limanni, New Business Administrator; Sue Cross, Clerk

Community Member: Amy Lyn Kench, Bristol

Meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm made by Fran Wendleboe, introductions of attendees and pledge of allegiance followed.

- Explanation of Fund Balance

Dan Rossner handed out a one page summary showing FY13 variances. (Attached at the end of the minutes)

- Account 2660 500 with a balance of (\$97,500) for the School Board Safety Initiative. The interim Superintendent gave him the directive to obtain estimates on security enhancement. He submitted the estimates to the Board and was given approval to move forward with the focus on video surveillance and building access.
- The \$357,434 fund balance referencing RSA 198.4 (b) II which empowers the School Board to retain a portion of the fund balance in a reserve account. The School Board chose to retain \$350,000. This leaves a balance of \$7,168 which will reduce the burden of taxation for the current school year.
- Health Insurance Contingency: FY 13 closed on June 30th. There was a reduction of 2.4 million dollars to the budget. A contributing factor to reach the reduction was the School Board implemented a series of changes on how health care insurance was offered to the employees. Specifically a reduced plan was offered to support staff and the contribution employees made on the 2 person and family plan. The budget was built on per person plan bases on current employees. This change reduced contribution on the employer's expense and a number of employees elected not to participate in the health coverage.
- Teacher Salary / Contingency: The reduction of staff by RIF (Reduction in Force) or layoffs and a number of retirements were contributors to the savings. Historically, the contingency line is increased by 1% based on the current salaries. The majority of the time new staff are hired at a lower salary than budgeted.
- Special Education Paraprofessional: Negative variance in paraprofessional costs due to a couple of changes in IEP (Individual Education Plan).
- Tuition reimbursement: The district is required by the Collective Bargaining agreement with the professional staff to provide a certain level of benefit with a cap of \$60,000 dollars. Two factors are a reduction in participation and using additional grant opportunities.
- Special Education Health / Contingency: This is the group that substantially changed their enrollment based on the changed structure of the offering.
- Special Education / Contingency: \$150,000 contingency primarily used for out of district placement. District had a philosophical change in the program and started to bring students back to District.
- Psychological and Behavioral Contracted Services: Some of the contracted services educators were hired as employees reducing costs.
- Information Technology: The incorporation of chrome books in the school versus purchasing laptops aided in reduced costs.
- SAU Contracted Services: The responsibilities at the SAU office changed during the year by adding an interim Superintendent with no benefits and not having a Student Services administrator.
- Transportation: Bringing out of district students back to the district reduced the cost of transportation along with fuel market fluctuation.

Sharon Nelson asked if there was an increase or decrease in enrollment. Dan Rossner said that enrollment is decreasing at approximately 3% per year. He also shared the District has hired a strong administrative team. Stacy Buckley, Superintendent, is very aware of cost regulations, Anne Holton, Student Services Administrator, knows where every dime goes and Mike Limanni, Business Administrator, attuned into where every penny goes.

- Swearing in the new Bridgewater Budget Committee member Jeff Bird
- Election of Chair and Vice Chair
Sharon Nelson nominate Fran Wendleboe as chair of the budget committee; Seconded by Harold Reilly.
Resulting in a vote of 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions, 1 absent (Stan Newton, Hebron)
Fran Wendleboe nominated Simon Barnett as vice chair seconded by William Joseph resulting in a vote of 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions, 1 absent (Stan Newton, Hebron)
- Organizational meeting for 2014-2015 budget year
Dan Rossner shared that Stacy Buckley, Superintendent, is presenting the Budget to the School Board on their October 15, 2013.
- Tuesday Oct 24, 2013 @ NRHS room 106 at 6:30 PM
- Motion to Adjourned by William Joseph, Seconded by Simon Barnett