

**Newfound Area School District  
Budget Committee draft minutes  
Thursday, December 14, 2017  
6:30 pm  
New Hampton Community School  
Multi-Purpose Room**

Budget Committee Members Present: John Jenness, New Hampton; Ruby Hill, Danbury; Christen Dolloff, Bristol; Gina Rescigno, Groton, Jeff Levesque, School Board Representative,

Not Present: Jeff Bird, Bridgewater; Skip Reilly, Alexandria; Stan Newton, Hebron

District Staff present: Stacy Buckley, Superintendent; Mike Limanni, Business Administrator

Called to order at 6:43 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of minutes from 12.5.17.17 meeting**

Ruby Hill made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted by. Seconded by Jeff Levesque. Motion passed 5-0-0.

**Continued review of the proposed 2018-2019 school district budget**

Ruby Hill started the discussion. She stated that she would still like to discuss cutting the improvements to the parking lots in Danbury and New Hampton. She suggested other projects such as air conditioning at NRHS on the second floor and improvements to nurses' offices and gymnasiums and her feeling that the plans for improvement are not developed enough yet to support the projects. Gina asked what would happen if the money were to come out of the budget. Stacy replied that if the committee makes the decision to change or forego the CIP plan, the project would have to wait a number of years before being added in because other projects have been planned for the coming years. She added that a lot of time went into creating the CIP and that the improvements have vetted through committees for two years. Jeff Levesque added that the board unanimously approved the CIP and the board members felt that the improvements were necessary. John Jenness spoke to his experience on Facility Committee meetings and that coming to a plan that the board approved, was key to improving district aesthetics after a long period of neglecting maintenance. Mike spoke to some of the other upcoming projects in on the CIP.

John Jenness asked if, in the next budget cycle, there are cosmetic improvements to the schools. He continued that he feels showing the public a constant level of improvement is important. Mike shared that summer 2019 is when Newfound Road is being reconstructed. The road improvements were planned such that the roof, day/night lobby, and track construction will take place before the road because of the increased traffic to accomplish those other goals would cause excessive wear and tear to new road construction. The CIP was thoughtful to do projects in a certain order.

Ruby asked about the status of Newfound Road. Mike stated that it is private but that there is a right of way for a residence and that it is important to work with that resident. John stated that appealing to children and parents with aesthetics is important and should be priority. Stacy stated that the CIP

committee is really just starting their work and that they have been working hard to put things in place to have a continuous plan for improvement. Mike detailed the changes in process for general maintenance items and addressing issues as they come about, and how with the CIP the district can really improve its facilities. Mike addressed Ruby's idea of renovating nurses' offices and libraries but reminded the committee that total renovations of buildings are generally cost prohibitive. The only way to assure that this 10-year CIP takes place is to be sure that the funding will be there behind the projects. Ruby asked how these CIP projects take capital reserve accounts into consideration. Jeff stated that he believes that now with the CIP in place, the capital reserve will go away. The capital reserve funds can be put aside for an emergency, but also be used to offset costs of projects. Ruby asked for clarification of approval of use of the capital reserve. Capital reserve could be used for tax relief by the school board.

Ruby suggested putting the CIP plan in the deliberative session/budget hearing booklets to educate the public.

Christen asked for pictures of the driveways as a tool to help the public visualize the changes and improvements needed. Ruby voiced her concern about encroaching on abutting property at DES and that the project may be constricted more than is anticipated. She continued that she is concerned that certain towns may feel neglected in the past by the district, given how projects were addressed in the past. Discussion about the aging buildings and the costs associated with construction and renovations in all the buildings.

Ruby asked about the middle school and how many classrooms have new furniture. Stacy said about half of them have new furniture.

Stacy shared with the committee that some funds were rolled over to purchase two more Chromebook carts at BES to increase the student-to-technology ratio in this budget cycle.

Mike shared that, except for DES and BHVS, the district is going to fiber connectivity for devices which will come with a savings of about \$40,000/year.

John asked about a line item for \$100 employee travel and an odd comment. Mike stated it was a question from the person that created the budget saying that they were unsure which line item to put this on and that he would correct the error.

John stated that, because we know attendance will be difficult next Thursday, he would like to try wrapping up budget discussion at next Tuesday's meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday December 19<sup>th</sup> at BES.

### **Public Input**

None

Ruby made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Jeff Levesque. Motion passed 5-0-0 and the meeting needed at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Bliss  
Budget Committee Clerk