

**Newfound Area School District**  
**Budget Committee Approved Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, December 19, 2017**  
**6:30 pm**  
**Bristol Elementary School**  
**Conference Room**

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

Not Present: Skip Reilly, Alexandria

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

Called to order at 6:32 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of minutes from 12.14.17 meeting**

Ruby Hill asked that “and gymnasiums” be added to paragraph 1 of discussion. Also, page 2 she stated that her concern was that towns had felt neglected “in the past” and the language be added to clarify. Christen Dolloff asked for clarification that the Chromebook carts for BES were purchased with Title I funds at BES

Christen to accept as amended seconded by John Jenness 5-0-2

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

John Jenness asked about items such as 22 flash drives for \$200, for High School art class and where the district draws the line regarding parent responsibility for supplies.

Stacy Buckley responded stated that, in the past, this district has supported the cost of supplies. Some items have been cut back, for example, the running start tuition has been reduced to only cover the costs for students participating in the free and reduced lunch program. Now the state will reimburse the students that get a C or better in any STEM running start class. In general, however, supplies needed for programming have been picked up by the district. Ruby asked about calculators. Stacy replied that in general, students choose to buy their own calculator but there are some on hand. John Jenness stated that most of his observations in the budget were of supplies and are technology based. He asked if the flash drives are given to the individual student or are they kept in the classroom. Stacy said she would research, but are generally used by art students to compile their portfolios. Mike Limanni added that the district is looking at online file transfer programs, which will move the district away from flash drives in the future. Mike added that the district spends about \$150,000 for supplies, which is a small portion of the total budget to guarantee that each student gets a similar experience. John added that he was curious how other districts handle supplies. Discussion continued regarding the differences in NH vs other states. Ruby stated that Newfound stands out as a district that provides supplies to students. Stacy stated that her goal is to make sure that teachers have the supplies they need to implement the curriculum. Teachers are also encouraged to apply for grants for enrichment programs. Discussion about the NEEF group and the process of applying for supply grants. Stan Newton discussed shopping

around for best prices. Jeff Bird asked for more clarification of “cloud” capability. Mike elaborated that he middle school is working on getting art portfolios digitally transferred from NMMS to NRHS as the students move on.

John asked about special education expenditures on materials and sensory tools. Is that typically provided by the district or reimbursed? Stacy stated that, generally, those materials and tools would be part of the student’s IEP and has to be provided by the district. Most special education items are IEP driven. Mike Limanni said that some items are reimbursed by Medicaid, which is shown as revenue. John also asked about an iPad requests by teachers. Are they included as part of the technology plan? Stacy said that all technology requests have been vetted by the technology department. Stacy said the district has gotten away from purchasing iPads, but on an individual basis sometimes they are more practical.

John continued by asking about headsets to which Stacy added that they are used for the state assessment and are saved for each classroom. The headsets move with the children because hygiene is a concern and of the risk of transferring lice. He noted that a set of Bluetooth headsets were requested for a computer class. Stacy said that certain sets will be classroom specific but generally the goal is to have headsets go with the student.

Ruby pointed out that this year’s budget request is up \$1.1MM over last year. She is concerned there may be a retaliatory slashing of this budget for the increase. Discussion about the importance of the CIP in order to keep the budget level and still maintain facilities. Ruby also voiced concern that the \$800,000 roof has not yet been done.

John asked if any members of the public have been to the school board meetings since tax bills came out. Jeff Levesque said that they have not. He spoke to his experience explaining the problems to the public. Historically, the district has given a lot of money back to the towns. This year, with the cost of the roof and the decrease in adequacy aid from the state, the money wasn’t there to give back to the tax payer. He spoke about the situation in Groton and how families have moved out of time because of the cost of living there.

Mike Limanni said the challenge with public budgets is looking years out into the future. Discussion about the value of investing in the school and increasing property values. Ruby asked what enrollment is currently. Mike replied that it is just under 1200 students.

Jeff Levesque said that what needs to be presented to the public is that the alternative to spending so much to maintain and run the schools is probably consolidation. Consolidation, though, has been historically unpopular.

Stan Newton asked about a comment in an explanation line about “moving away from grammar instruction.” Stacy said the explanation is worded poorly, and the district is not moving away from grammar instruction.

Discussion about the roundtable strategic planning session and the kind of problem solving and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills being taught.

### **Approval of proposed 2018-2019 school district budget**

John Jenness made a motion to accept the 2018-2019 Budget as presented in the amount of \$22,342,600. The motion was seconded by Christen Dolloff and passed by a vote of 6-1-0 (Ruby Hill, Danbury, Dissented).

John Jenness made a motion to accept Fund 21-Food Services Budget in the amount of \$629,901. The motion was seconded by Gina Rescigno and passed by a vote of 7-0-0.

John Jenness made a motion to accept Fund 22-Grant Budgets in the amount of \$841,094. The motion was seconded by Ruby Hill and passed by a vote of 7-0-0.

Stacy reminded the committee that the budget hearing is Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at NRHS with a snow date of Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. Warrant articles will be finalized on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Stacy provided information about the Hebron town offices. Around 1998, the school board made a motion to donate the property to the town of Hebron when the village school closed. There has been a complaint by an abutter, so they have been researching to find if the transfer of property ever happened. She does not believe that the property was ever legally transferred in 1998 as was previously thought.

If a petition warrant article comes in, she will inform the committee.

Jeff Bird asked if the district owns any property that there is no facility on. Mike said yes, especially around the high school, as well as some property in Alexandria. Jeff asked about the one-room school house in Alexandria. Mike shared that that property has been deeded back to the town. Ruby added that the one-room school house building is endowed.

**Public Input**

None.

Ruby Hill made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Stan Newton. Motion passed 7-0-0 and the meeting ended at 7:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Bliss  
Budget Committee Clerk