

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 17, 2012**

Present: Bayard Tracy, Chairman; Dan Cotter, Gary Winn, Mike Wiggin, Spofford Fire Precinct Representative; Cliff Emery, Selectboard Representative; Marty Mahoney, School Board Representative; Bill Bucknell (Arrived at 6:52 PM).

School Board Representatives: Sharyn D'Eon, Principal; Darlene Dunn, Vice Principal; Judy Idelkope and Ege Cordell

Absent: Deb Chickering, Chesterfield Fire & Rescue Precinct; John Koopmann, Rich Kalich, Charlie Perry, John Zannotti and Steve Laskowski

Dan moved the January 3rd minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Gary and passed unanimously.

School – Marty stated that the 2012-2013 budget was driven by declining enrollment and declining state revenue. The budget presented is the budget proposed by Sharyn and Tim with minor adjustments. The proposed budget is a \$342,967 or 4.16% decrease. Cliff asked about the \$421,000 decrease in budget for 2011-2012 once transfers are accounted for. There is \$383,000 of transfers and \$38,000 for the door hardware project. The transfers could be considered the equivalent to the warrant articles from the Town, but there are some transfers such as lunch program that do affect the regular budget. Tim Reuhr will be present next Tuesday to answer questions.

The significant staffing reductions are 2 full-time teachers, 1 position was not filled last year; phys ed is decreased by 30%, in addition to 20% decrease last year; A speech therapist and media generalist are decreased by 20% each and the elimination of the assistant principal position. There is also a proposed change of 1 full-time custodian to a salaried manager of maintenance projects. The staffing changes are a \$269,966 reduction to the budget. Regular HS Tuition is down \$19,690. There are 138 enrolled which is a decrease of 9 students plus 5% rate increase. There are 3 students attending Brattleboro Union High School for a specific vocational program not offered by Keene. Tuition to Brattleboro is more expensive. 75% of the cost is reimbursed. Special Education is down \$139,121. There were 25 SPED last year and only 23 budgeted for next year.

There will be 16 Full-Time Classroom Teachers, 13 Aides and 5 One-on-Ones for Special Education next year. 3 of the One-on-Ones are in the same grade level. Since 2008 the staff has reduced by 5 Full-Time Teachers and 6 Support Staff. There are 4 Full-Time SPED teachers. The Transportation contract is up 2%. The Board is proposing to pay the increase this year to be able to negotiate along with other Towns next year. The portable classrooms need to be removed. There is a warrant article for up to \$50,000 of unencumbered funds to be deposited into the renovation/reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund. The SAU costs are the only increase in spending. A school nurse is required for populations of 300 or more. Due to liability, distance from the hospitals

and diabetic students the school does not recommend eliminating or decreasing the school nurse position. The school nurse is responsible for ensuring all grade students have the required immunizations. The School Budget is proposing to sell 25% of the psychologist services.

Both Superintendents have announced their intent to retire. Our SAU costs have increased 3.9%. Marlow decreased 2.72% and Marlboro increased 7.46%. The change from a full-time custodian to a project manager is an effort to shift Sharyn's responsibilities to educational projects. This manager will be capable of small repairs, lunch room duties and manage major contracts. The distances that students can walk from door to bus stop are heavily regulated. Marty reported that Adequacy Aid will decrease due to declining enrollment. Catastrophic Aid will decrease due to the change in SPED enrollment. The State is only reimbursing Aid by 60% instead of 100% last year.

Judy reported on the contract negotiations. The proposed contract did not come easily on either side. The 1st year increase is \$29,406 or 1.65%. The 2nd year increase is \$27,744 or 1.74% and the 3rd year increase is \$27,290 or 1.68%. The median increase the 1st year is \$400 and average increase \$862. The median increase the 2nd year is \$500 and average increase is \$900. The median increase the 3rd year is \$455 and the average is \$913. If the contract were not approved 15 of 33 teachers would not get increases. Average salary increases by 1.6% in year one of the contract, 1.7% in year two, and 1.7% year three of the contract. These increases represent changes to the salary structure and include step increases. They are offset in part by increased employee contributions to the health plan in each of the three years of the proposed agreement. Members of the Committee were pleased with 1% average increases.

The school is proposing warrant article for \$105,000 to reconstruct the bus entrance. There is also a warrant article for \$90,000 to replace the roof. Dan asked if ventilation would be repaired prior to replacing the roof so that the freezing that requires hammering to the roof and subsequently damage would be stopped. There is 0% ventilation along that stretch of roof right now. Yes, the ventilation will be repaired with this project. Dan and Mike suggested a membrane roof that comes with a 50-year guarantee.

The next meeting will be Tuesday the 24th. The School will be reviewed first as Tim Ruehr will be present. Tonight's review will not be duplicated at the next meeting. Gary moved to adjourn at 9:25 PM. The motion was seconded by Dan and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary