

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Budget Work Session
SAU BOARD ROOM

NO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Thursday, December 19, 2013
6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD

Stewart Brock, Rich Cahoon (6:42),
Matthew Craig, Butch Estey,
Joel Green, David Martz (6:42),
Linda Quintanilha, Pierce Rigrod,
Myron Steere, Fiona Tibbetts

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Brendan Minnihan, Supt.
Kimberly Saunders, Asst. Supt.
Marian Alese, B.A.
Dr. Rick Matte, Student Services
Tim Grossi, Dir. Facilities
Gib West, CVHS
Helfried Zrzavy, CVHS

Butch Estey called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

- FY'15 Budget Work Session – Marian Alese
Review of Version 3

Marian Alese reviewed the following that have been incorporated into Version 3:
LGC Return of Revenue and deduction of Special Education Trust funds
COTA position reduced, OT position added; salary lines reflect changes
Girl's Ice Hockey is added in line 734
Line 738 reflects addition of band uniforms
Line 739 reflects removal of SMS lab
The impact results in a .21% increase

Myron Steere asked about the overage of approximately \$400,000 in the salary line for teacher's salaries. Marian Alese reported that she did not believe that we would have \$400-\$500,000 remaining in the teacher's salary line. We do budget for one additional teacher and one para.

Fiona Tibbetts questioned the delta which she believed to be approximately \$750,000. Marian Alese reported that the numbers come from the salary scale with an approximate 3% salary increase, it also includes buy back dollars etc. Marian said that she would be happy to meet with Fiona to look at the detail.

Ms. Tibbetts also cited the difference in the athletic transportation line; \$161,000 spent with \$225,000 budgeted.

Marian Alese reported that salaries are based on current staff with step increases and salary increases. It also includes curriculum work and summer work.

Transportation includes contractual obligations and additional special education runs. Ms. Alese will get the specifics.

Matthew Craig asked if the default was calculated the same as in the past. Marian Alese confirmed that it had.

Impact of "All In" budget

The "All In" budget reflects a 3.3% impact to District Assessment or an increase of approximately 1%.

Technology

Kimberly Saunders reported that interest peaked in iPad use in the classroom by teachers at the high school. Twenty-five devices were purchased; many teachers used their own personal devices. An action research project, a project conducted by a single teacher, asking a specific question about whether or not iPads increased student engagement in the classroom took place. The research found that 92% of students in a class of 24 students felt that there were consistent benefits in using the iPad integration into classroom instruction. 67% believed it enhanced their learning in the class.

The recommendation was to conduct a full-blown pilot. Looking at learning outcomes in terms of an increase in student learning is the goal.

Should the pilot be successful, we would recommend that we would add iPads to classes. It would even out the average of devices across the buildings. The iPads were also used to increase opportunities in American Cultural Studies and Astronomy classes.

Myron Steere asked if the same result would be tracked to see if it follows through year after year.

Kimberly Saunders reported that the results would be reviewed. Student engagement would be measured by time on task measured through administrative observation and teacher survey.

Rich Cahoon asked if iPads are suggested why it would not be the device adopted district-wide. Dr. Minnihan said that there is need for laptops and high end desktops for other purposes. Mr. Cahoon said that he was referring to Chrome books vs. iPads.

Pierce Rigrod asked if we have a sense of the ratio of devices for middle school and high school. He also asked if "Bring Your Own Device" (BYOD) would work.

Dr. Minnihan said that the ratios could be provided in terms of averages. BYOD is still a work in progress. It is daunting because of band width questions.

Stewart Brock reported supporting this initiative.

Myron Steere asked how much of this the teachers have been introduced to in terms of Professional Development. Kimberly Saunders shared a table that provided detail. Teachers that used the device worked directly with the integrator and received training. Ten teachers would be selected by high school administration and receive training and then pilot.

Helfried Zrzavy provides ongoing direct support to the teachers.

Mr. Zrzavy confirmed that ten teachers could easily be selected for this pilot. He shared what the support might look like.

Rich Cahoon shared that it would be good to assign teachers who have no experience with an iPad to implement in this pilot as well.

Kimberly Saunders reported that the goal is to find if students are more engaged in their own learning. Is it having an impact by looking at standardized assessment and Common Assessment? If it has an impact on engagement and learning, we would recommend the pilot. This pilot would happen in January with the devices already in house. If successful, the proposal is to purchase iPads in the next budget cycle.

Gib West provided hard numbers in terms of products and dollars.

Marian Alese said that the money in the budget is for replacement and desktops.

Discussion took place about placing money in next year's budget in the event that the pilot was found to be unsuccessful.

Matthew Craig reported that something quantifiable and actionable will be needed at the end of the pilot.

Dr. Minnihan said that a recommendation will be made to the Board at the end of the pilot.

Having something in writing that outlines the process was discussed. Rich Cahoon supported defining what the desired outcome would be in order to move forward after the results are determined.

The results of the pilot will be brought to the Education Committee and then in turn to the full Board.

Gib West shared that in the budget process, Brian Pickering made efforts in the budget to absorb these costs. We have already made a decision that this is that important. We should be able to demonstrate outcomes but concern was shared about deeper cuts when cuts were already made to bring this forward.

Sense of the Board for all of the proposed:

Total is upward of \$600K. Confirmed.

The phone system upgrade would complete that project.

Laptops reflect replacement devices.

Rich Cahoon asked if network infrastructure could be outsourced and get on the Budget & Property review cycle.

Myron Steere shared the impact of the budget on district assessment; in particular for the Town of Greenfield. He said that would have a significant impact on residents. He suggested looking at tradeoffs on the high priority items.

Pierce Rigrod shared what the Town of Hancock is looking at in terms of work on their town hall and the impact. People will have to make choices.

Matthew Craig said that there is one item out of four that we can control in terms of district assessment. ADM and property valuation are out of the Board's control. Mr. Craig asked Marian Alese to do a comparison with last year's budget and the proposed in district assessment.

Marian Alese reminded the Board that the State of NH does not fund education. Actions by the state directly impact the cost of education.

Sense of the Board:

Stewart Brock moved to support Version 3 of the proposed budget which is not the all in budget.

David Martz second.

Matthew Craig asked if we support the motion are we not supporting the all in budget. Butch replied that it does not mean that. A vote on this will allow adding in some of the "all in" items. Confirmed.

In favor: Unanimous

Opposed None

Matthew Craig moved to add the "tech all in" to the Version 3.

Linda Quintanilha second.

If the "all in" is included in the budget the impact is an increase of .98% and 3.32% on district assessment.

Rich Cahoon opposed that motion as offered.

Pierce Rigrod asked for data consistent with our technology plan in terms of student: device ratios.

Dr. Minnihan said that the Education Committee and full board still have the opportunity to turn this down later.

Linda Quintanilha shared her sense of the board that the concern is that if the pilot is not successful that the \$131,000 would get spent anyway; she asked what the concern was.

In favor: Matthew Craig, Joel Green, Pierce Rigrod, Stewart Brock, Linda Quintanilha

Opposed: David Martz, Fiona Tibbetts, Myron Steere, Rich Cahoon

Motion carried.

Warrant Article Discussion

Myron Steere said that he would like to remove the fund balance retention warrant article.

Rich Cahoon said that it is not additional funding. It would be already in the budget. It would require a lot of communication and this might not be the year.

Matt Craig said that he was willing to support bringing this to the voters.

Marian Alese reported that in Year 1 you get the authority to retain a fund balance but you don't retain until the following year. It is to see if people will allow us to consider doing this in the future.

Rich Cahoon moved to drop the proposed warrant article on retention of a fund balance. Myron Steere second. All else in favor. Motion carried.

Track resurfacing –

Stewart Brock moved to leave track resurfacing on the warrant as written. Matthew Craig second.

In favor: All

Opposed None

Motion carried.

CVHS parking lot -

Myron Steere moved to keep the proposed warrant article for the high school parking lot. Second.

Myron Steere asked if we want to put a cap on the Special Education Trust Fund.

Linda Quintanilha recommended no cap because of possibilities

In favor: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

SMS Paving –

Myron Steere moved to keep the proposed warrant article on paving at SMS/SAU on the warrant. Stewart Brock second.

Linda Quintanilha shared her concerns.

Rich Cahoon opposed keeping it in and said that putting both on the warrant jeopardizes both.

Pierce Rigrod agreed with Rich; the number of requests jeopardizes them.

Matthew Craig said that it should go forward otherwise we say it is not important. It allows another choice to voters.

Joel Green agreed with Matthew Craig; if it is needed, it is needed.

Rich Cahoon said that it is not just resurfacing, it is adding a lane. Wording could state that dependent on what is found it becomes just a resurfacing project.

Marian Alese said that we could only spend what we ask voters for because it is a warrant article.

In favor: Matthew Craig, Stewart Brock, Joel Green, Linda Quintanilha, Myron Steere, Fiona Tibbetts

Opposed: Pierce Rigrod, Rich Cahoon, David Martz. Motion carried.

Lease/Purchase -

Myron Steere moved to keep the lease/purchase for the tractor on the warrant article in the first option shared. Stewart Brock second.

Marian Alese said that this would have to be on warrant every year. She provided an explanation. If non-appropriation clause it would have to be separate article.

Matthew Craig supported the second option shared.

Marian Alese was asked what type of article would be placed on the warrant. Actual numbers will be inserted.

Rich said that if this fails, we could not buy tractor if we had extra money.

In favor of first option: All
Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Two other warrant articles include the Special Education Trust fund with a potential cap. Right now there is \$430,000 in the fund with another \$100,000 to add if available.

Myron Steere moved. Matthew Craig second.
In favor: Unanimous.

Capital Reserve Fund -

Myron Steere moved to add \$100,000 in the Capital Reserve Fund if available.
Joel Green second.

Rich Cahoon suggested increasing it to \$150,000.

Rich Cahoon moved to add \$150,000 in the Capital Reserve Fund if available. Joel Green second.

Vote on the amendment to raise to \$150,000: David Martz opposed. All else in favor.
Motion carried on the amendment.

Motion to add \$150,000 in the Capital Reserve Fund if available. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Health Maintenance Trust Fund –

This fund helps mitigate if significant changes in health rates occur.

Myron Steere moved to include the Health Maintenance Trust fund for \$50,000 if available.

Stewart Brock second.

A Public Hearing would be needed to use funds for various purposes.

Matthew Craig said that he felt that this is not needed this year.

In favor: Joel Green, Linda Quintanilha, Myron Steere, Pierce Rigrod, Rich Cahoon

Opposed: Matthew Craig, David Martz, Fiona Tibbetts, Stewart Brock

Motion carried.

Butch Estey wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Myron Steere moved to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. Joel Green second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok