

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Budget Work Session
SAU BOARD ROOM

NO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Wednesday, December 9, 2015
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD

Rich Cahoon, Richard Dunning,
Butch Estey, Janine Lesser,
David Martz, Stephan Morrissey,
Pierce Rigrod, Crista Salamy,
Myron Steere, Fiona Tibbetts,
Jerome Wilson

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Brendan Minnihan, Supt.
Kimberly Saunders, Asst. Supt.
Marian Alese, B.A.
Dr. Rick Matte, Student Services
Tim Grossi, Facilities
Dr. Ann Allwarden, AES/Pierce
Amy Janoch, HES
Nicola Fraley, FES
Nicole Pease, DCS
Niki McGettigan, TES
Colleen Roy, GES

- FY'17 Budget Work Session – Marian Alese

1. Review of Version 4
2. Other Items

Marian Alese recapped Versions 1 through 4 of the budget proposals and how they were arrived at. Ms. Alese cautioned that if the board is attempting to propose a budget that compensates for the loss of revenue that it will not only be extremely challenging, it will change our methodology as well. Increases in NH Retirement are likely, building aid will end, and revenues will continue to decline; all causing the district to go backward if we attempt to compensate for these decreases in the operating budget. We just rolled out a Strategic Plan. We have been dealing with these types of issues for six years and moved money to meet needs. Ms. Alese said that we are at a crossroads.

Marian Alese shared the 15-16 delta information as of today. The end result, if all remains as is, is the projection of a \$229,426 remaining fund balance.

If Version 4 moves forward, assessment would be up 3.07%. Version 5 results in a 2.5% increase in district assessment. There are no monies in the budget for merit and salary increases.

Capital expenses have been removed, \$100,000 in curriculum renewal, miscellaneous furniture and equipment, GBS mountain bikes, music furniture, labs etc. have been removed.

Rich Cahoon spoke about world language; we eliminated French but increased German. With declining enrollment, why was that decision made? The response was that it has to do with the level of interest.

Dick Dunning asked if there were any new positions in Version 4 that are not in Version 5. The response was that there are not.

The Counselor position for the elementary schools is in the budget.

Pierce Rigrod asked about the security money that was encumbered; it was part of the state aid plan.

Marian Alese said that there are other funds but they cannot be used for security. They are committed. Pierce Rigrod suggested using the money for efficiencies and put off security. Marian said that it is possible. She said that we are half way through what we said we would spend. She still has to tally. Ms. Alese further said that the budget in front of the board assumes use of almost all capital fund accounts in order not to put the capital plan at risk.

Dr. Minnihan said that the board took a vote to start investing in security. If something happens there will be concern.

Tim Grossi said that every time he enters a school, security is the number one question he is approached about. Staff are concerned when security will be implemented.

Current Trust Fund balances were asked.

Capital Reserve – near \$600,000 before work voted; leaving \$138,000.

\$135,000 was removed from the budget for Health Maintenance Trust leaving \$65,000.

The Athletic Trust is \$33,000 after enhancement work on the athletic fields.

Special Education Trust is approximately \$500,000.

Rich Cahoon said that security has been discussed in Budget & Property but never with the full board. A meaningful presentation on security has not been shared.

Stephan Morrissey asked about the one elementary school counselor position. Rick Matte shared the current ratio. Justification was shared at the November Budget Work Session.

Rich Cahoon shared what he feels the world language net to be.

Dr. Minnihan asked the board what they want to do. Do they want the German position cut? If so, that can be done.

Crista Salmay said that it might result in students not receiving world language. Stephan Morrissey cited the possibility of VLACS and other online programming available for this purpose.

Dr. Minnihan reminded the board that over a 6 year period the result is a 2.9% increase in the budget.

Dick Dunning said that he would not want to make a recommendation on the German position without hearing from the high school principal. The district has done everything they can to keep the budget down. Which version will we go to the default over? It doesn't include the teacher's salary. It does not include any wage increases at all for anyone.

Rich Cahoon asked if world language enrollments are up or down. If German is not available can students take Spanish?

Rich Cahoon moved not to fund the additional half time German position. Myron Steere second.

Dick Dunning said that he cannot support the motion without input from the high school principal.

Kimberly Saunders said that Version 3 allows us to make progress toward the Strategic Plan, it allows implementation of program developed over the past 15 years.

Version 4 moves things around and allows a more palatable number for taxpayers. Version 4 includes numbers that you will see again.

Version 5 is an austere budget. Should the board adopt this budget, the Strategic Plan cannot progress substantially. We will not be able to implement to allow our program to grow. Ms.

Saunders recommendation is to look at Version 3 and put a stake in the ground and say, as a school board, that this is the budget we support and here is why. If we don't get it, we as administrators will figure it out.

Rich Cahoon confirmed his motion for not funding the additional half-time German position.

In favor: Fiona Tibbetts, Jerome Wilson, Rich Cahoon, Myron Steere, Stephan Morrissey, David Martz.

Opposed: Crista Salamy, Janine Lesser, Dick Dunning, Pierce Rigrod.

Motion passed not to fund the additional .5 German position.

Marian asked for reconsideration of moving the district meeting to May. There is perception that we wanted to vote with Peterborough. However, if we move to May, we will have actual insurance numbers, we will have kindergarten registration numbers, we will have high school scheduling numbers, we will have just finished the winter season. We could build a budget based on better information. Marian said that it is worth reconsideration.

Dick Dunning said that he would support this.

It requires an article on the warrant.

Rich Cahoon shared his concern that turnout would likely decline for voting in May. It might trend not in favor of the district.

Stephan Morrissey moved to put an article on the warrant and ballot and let the people decide if the annual meeting should be moved to May. Dick Dunning second.

In favor: 4

Opposed: 6

Motion failed.

Stephan Morrissey said that it is the State pushbacks that are causing this quandary. However, this needs to be made clear to the public. In the event that the public rejects the budget, where does the budget fall?

Myron Steere asked if the itemized list of potential cuts would be implemented if the default becomes reality. Pierce Rigrod said that the board needs to communicate better. He asked for a delineation within the different versions. Stephan Morrissey said that it is difficult to favor a budget that does not include merit or salary increases.

Butch Estey said that he would like to see what board members have for an idea of what they would like to see.

The default on version 3 would be a 3.9% increase in district assessment or \$1,288,000.

Rich Cahoon moved to allocate a 3% pool for administrative assistants; 2% flat and 1% merit distributed at the discretion of the Superintendent. Stephan second. This would be added to any version we are on.

Rich said that historically we have included that number in the default. Hi intent is to commit paying all of them 2%.

In favor: Rich Cahoon, Richard Dunning, Janine Lesser, Stephan Morrissey, Pierce Rigrod, Myron Steere, Fiona Tibbetts, Jerome Wilson

Opposed: David Martz

Abstentions: Crista Salamy

Motion passed.

David Martz motioned that the elementary counselor proposed position be half-time. Stephan Morrissey second.

Butch Estey said that half-time will not cut it in his opinion.

Dr. Rick Matte said that grouping travel teams together increases collaboration.

Stephan Morrissey called the vote.

In favor: David Martz

**Opposed: All others.
Motion failed.**

Rich Cahoon moved to allocate a 3% pool including 1% merit for the remainder of hourly staff not covered by contract. Stephan Morrissey second.

In favor: Rich Cahoon, Richard Dunning, Janine Lesser, Stephan Morrissey, Pierce Rigrod, Myron Steere, Fiona Tibbetts, Jerome Wilson

Opposed: David Martz

Motion passed.

Marian Alese said that the number is approximately \$160,000 for both groups not covered by contract.

Butch Estey called for a five minute break at 8:18 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:28 p.m.

Marian Alese reported that \$170,000 includes a merit pool for administrators. The total is \$160,000 for hourly staff.

Butch Estey asked how many are comfortable with Version 3. Three board members confirmed.

How many are comfortable with Version 4? One confirmed.

How many are comfortable with Version 5? Four confirmed.

How many are not comfortable with any of the versions? Two confirmed.

Myron Steere said that if the teachers and CVAA dollars were known, a better decision could be made.

Rich Cahoon asked about the list of reductions; which are the most impactful?

Dr. Minnihan said that it defers purchases to another year; it doesn't go away; it will come up again.

Rich Cahoon clarified by asking which reductions have the most impact on students in the next year and moving forward on the Strategic Plan. Marian said that the \$100,000 in curriculum would be encumbered this year.

**Rich Cahoon moved to encumber the \$100,000 for curriculum this year. Second.
Unanimous.**

- Next Steps

- Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3,II

- a. Personnel
- b. Negotiations

Myron Steere moved in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II to enter into non-public session at 8:34 p.m. for matters of negotiation. Unanimous on a roll call vote.

**Myron Steere moved to exit non-public session at 8:55 p.m. Stephan Morrissey second.
Unanimous.**

Myron Steere moved to seal the minutes of non-public session for 5 years. Stephan Morrissey second. Unanimous.

Stephan Morrissey asked about Version 3 – in particular the SMS Mac lab.

Marian Alese reported that they are beginning the transition to PC's. They will not purchase an additional Mac lab for transition purposes. Version 3 had a Mac lab in it.

Crista Salamy said that the labs were put on hold for the middle schools while platform was reviewed.

Discussion ensued. Refreshed labs were put on hold. It should not have been in the budget.

Stephan Morrissey moved to take the SMS lab out of Version 3. Myron Steere second.

A sense of the board was asked in terms of support for Version 3:

Version 3 would have the Mac lab removed as well as the German, 100,000 from curriculum, etc.

Marian Alese suggested going to version 4 with putting stuff back.

Stephan Morrissey withdrew his motion. Myron Steere withdrew his second.

Stephan Morrissey moved to vote on version 4 with the additions that are recommended. Adding back 3% for AA's, 3% for facilities, and removing .5 German proposal.

Dick Dunning second.

Myron Steere asked what the percentage increase on district assessment would be.

Marian Alese replied that it would be a net increase of \$30,000 or 4%.

The new Version 4 increase to district assessment would be \$1,329,294.00 which is a 4.09%. The increase to the budget is \$175,111.00 or .39%.

Version 5 results in a district assessment increase of 3.2% or \$1,169,516.00. The increase to the budget is \$15,000. This removes the remainder of technology.

Kimberly Saunders reminded the board that with Version 5 and we go to default, there is nothing left but program and people to reduce. If we do Version 4 and go to default, there is still the technology to fall back on.

Stephan Morrissey moved to accept Version 4. Janine Lesser second.

The default for Version 5 and Version 4 is the same and the difference is the same.

We would still need to find over \$300,000.

Dr. Minnihan asked if technology was encumbered this year it wouldn't be needed next year therefore the default for Version 5 would still need to find \$300,000.

There is harm overall to go to Version 5 compared to Version 4 should the default be passed.

There is greater likelihood of having to cut staff.

In favor of accepting Version 4: Rich Cahoon, Richard Dunning, Janine Lesser, Stephan Morrissey, Pierce Rigrod, Myron Steere, Fiona Tibbetts, Jerome Wilson

Opposed: David Martz

Motion carried.

Stephan Morrissey said that he would like to see the default and what that would look like.

Butch Estey reminded the board to look over the Memorandum of Understanding for ice hockey for discussion at the next meeting. Also, the Strategic Plan approval vote will occur at the next board meeting and draft Tech Plan discussion.

Marian Alese asked the board if they are okay with putting name on State Treasurer's Association desire for municipalities.

Stephan Morrissey moved to put our name on the document as requested. Myron Steere second. Unanimous.

Stephan Morrissey moved to adjourn at 9:38 p.m. Second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok