

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY
OCTOBER 21, 2013**

Board Members Present: T. Croteau, R. Horton, B. McGrath, J. Cardinale arrived at 5:32 pm., E. Jackson arrived at 6:30 pm.
Administration Present: J. Lewis, L. Schmidt, P. Bigelow, D. Chamberlain

T. Croteau called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm. for the purpose of starting work on the budget.

L. Schmidt reviewed the budget preparation process. Advised the budget number is a really loose number at this point.

T. Croteau advised he liked receiving the comparison of last year's budget to this year's.

P. Bigelow explained that the teachers wanted the Board to know that this year they are trying to stay with what they have, but in the future will need additional items in the budget. The new challenge is changing to the Common Core.

B. McGrath asked if they could do a Warrant Article for teacher supplies and put money in every year.

P. Bigelow advised people want to know what the contingency fund is being used for.

R. Horton doesn't think they should put it on a Warrant article, but do we need to continue to look at putting funds in to get kids further ahead than we are; how do we do that?

J. Lewis asked what if the Warrant Article didn't pass.

There was discussion by the Board.

Board members would like to get the budget number down.

R. Horton would like to get the budget under \$11,000,000.

T. Croteau doesn't think people want to see more than a one to two percent increase in the budget.

B. McGrath – Need to provide what students need, but need to compare cost versus benefit.

L. Schmidt advised there have been changes in the last year in RSA's that allow schools to retain a percentage of the budget surplus.

T. Croteau asked L. Schmidt to see how much there is in the Town's Equity Fund account.

L. Schmidt – Still don't know how much Adequacy Aid we will be receiving.

L. Schmidt – Could help stabilize the tax rate.

R. Horton asked for more information.

L. Schmidt will get that.

L. Schmidt reviewed the bulk of monies returned to tax payers; much of the cost was to KHS.

There was discussion and questions by the Board.

P. Bigelow advised they are doing a better job tracking kids at KHS.

The In-District Sped Coordinator and Curriculum Coordinator positions were previously grant funded. That will make up approximately \$140,000 of the increase in the proposed budget. Maybe we could get creative with the Curriculum Coordinator position; maybe they could do something for Health.

L. Schmidt advised they have not had a Special Ed discussion yet; will be doing that soon, ie. public and private tuitions, etc.

T. Croteau asked what Fitzwilliam does for Health Education.

J. Lewis believes the teachers do it. It doesn't sound like they have a specific Health teacher.

The budget deadline is 11/25.

T. Croteau advised right now they are looking at \$170,000 - \$180,000 more in the budget; \$140,000 is for two positions.

R Horton advised they don't have Keene numbers or transportation numbers yet.

Winchester's bus contract is up this year.

T. Croteau asked about the possibility of hiring drivers and buying/leasing busses and doing it ourselves.

After discussion, J. Cardinale will look into leasing busses; two small (20-24) passenger and four large (74 passenger).

The routes dictate how many busses we need.

R. Horton advised a big part of the budget is transportation to Keene, oil and electricity.

L. Schmidt advised oil is stabilized; prices are coming down.

R. Horton feels we need to visit contracting of custodians.

J. Cardinale and B. McGrath agree; it is a big piece of the budget.
T. Croteau feels we should have in-house custodians.

After discussion, B. McGrath advised he can get names of companies that would be willing to bid.

E. Jackson arrived at 6:30 pm.

E. Jackson would like to keep the budget at a one-two percent increase; a decrease would be a win/win. Advised the Town is looking at a three percent increase; should keep that in mind.

The Access Grant is ending June 30th; now running at \$160,000-\$170,000; will automatically lose at least 50%.

R. Horton asked if they can take money from the MFS payments to use toward the playground.

After discussion, agreed they would put money into the general fund and then write a check from there.

J. Cardinale advised they will need more wood chips at some point for the playground.

The Board feels bolts/equipment should be checked periodically.

J. Lewis did see marks made on bolts. Cameras on doors have been installed.

The next meeting on the budget will be held at 6:00 pm. on Monday, October 28th.

Discussed meeting with Keene on November 4th. J. Lewis will schedule it.

Discussed website.

B. McGrath MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 pm; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins