

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY
MARCH 26, 2012**

Board Members Present: W. Hildreth, T. Croteau, E. Jackson, R. Horton

Administration Present: K. Dassau, P. Bigelow, C. Paulin, J. Lewis

The meeting was called to order by Chair, T. Croteau at 6:31 pm.

C. Paulin reviewed how to read the Expenditure Report.

R. Horton asked for a copy of the bill from Keene High School.

C. Paulin advised he could show some of the information, but with the names blacked out for Special Ed.

R. Horton asked for a cost of out-of-district placements; are we in the red on those?

C. Paulin advised he can get that; can do a projection.

C. Paulin explained an encumbrance is what we have a contractual obligation to pay.

R. Horton asked where they anticipate the fund balance to come from.

C. Paulin explained if we don't spend anything that has been restricted and everything goes as expected, it could be about \$400,000 under-budget this year.

R. Horton feels that is a little frustrating to him since now there has been an issue over \$600,000 plus.

C. Paulin explained none of these savings are pushed forward to next year's budget.

R. Horton – the proposed budget was over \$800,000 more.

C. Paulin advised this exercise tonight is to find cuts; need to look in the details.

E. Jackson asked for a detailed list of Grants.

C. Paulin advised he will figure out how to get her that. There are a total of six or seven Grants in the budget.

The Board reviewed the 2012-2013 Budget Summary and C. Paulin answered questions.

R. Horton went through the budget proposing cuts in different line items and C. Paulin updated the PowerPoint.

R. Horton proposed possible SAU changes.

K. Dassau advised there are five positions with one year contracts, if there is no renegotiation, their jobs would end in July and then the positions would need to be posted accordingly.

R. Horton feels they need to retain K. Dassau for next year for the SAU. He feels they should look at a full time Business Manager position and not retain an Accountant. Also, there is the Tech Director; what are other options?

T. Croteau asked for K. Dassau or C. Paulin's feelings on that.

C. Paulin feels they could get folks to apply, but whether the whole job can fit onto one person; maybe if they have a magician.

C. Paulin explained work is not dependent upon the number of students; they still need to change the table, tax rates, etc., no matter how many people there are. He doesn't feel they could have the job done with that staffing model.

C. Paulin wanted to be clear on the job responsibility and that staffing levels were set before the contract was set with Surry.

R. Horton originally discussed fewer people in the SAU; this is not what the voters voted on; it is much different and we need to tighten our belt.

W. Hildreth asked about money for Keene tuition.

K. Dassau advised nothing happens with the Keene contract if the money is cut; we still need to contractually pay the tuitions for students who go.

W. Hildreth is concerned with the student fluctuation.

K. Dassau feels with the Business Manager position, they need to see what the market bears. The job description, etc. is set for \$60,000; it would need to be rewritten if the position was changed. Changes would all need to be made by 7/1/12.

R. Horton asked if we have approached Hinsdale to team with them.

K. Dassau responded he hasn't been directed to do that.

T. Croteau asked if cuts are not made to the SAU where do you propose they would come from?

K. Dassau advised he started this process with the Board in November, so he hasn't reviewed it again. Feels they now need to go through and weigh the feasibility of cuts.

T. Croteau advised they have a number that they need to make work.

C. Paulin reprinted the report for the Board with the proposed changes.

T. Croteau asked if they get the numbers on the MS22 can lines be moved around.

K. Dassau advised yes, we just need to fit them into categories and work on the details later.

T. Croteau suggested putting the balance of cuts under Transportation for now.

C. Paulin suggested cutting from the 1100 and 1200 accounts. He advised it is arbitrary at this time, but he doesn't feel they would want to cut any single line items.

W. Hildreth - if they cut K. Dassau's Surry portion, the budget will be less \$42,000. We would need to raise taxes to take care of it.

W. Hildreth advised she made her suggestions when the Board went over the budget; that's where she stands.

After much discussion, the Board decided to take K. Dassau's suggestion regarding the MS-22.

R. Horton MOVED to accept the MS-22 as C. Paulin prepared with suggestions from tonight's meeting; SECONDED by: T. Croteau, VOTED: 2-2 (E. Jackson, W. Hildreth – no), MOTION FAILED.

After discussion, the Board agreed to meet in the Ford Building on Friday, March 30th at 6:30 PM.

W. Hildreth MOVED to adjourn the meeting; SECONDED by: E. Jackson, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary