

## **Budget Committee Meeting Minutes 01/10/18 Wednesday**

### **School Budget Presentation to Budget Committee**

7:00pm Arch Weathers called the meeting to order

Roll call Budget Committee AND Guests

Members present: Arch Weathers, Ed Hiller, Morgan Salathe, Nancy Teach, Mary Ann Levesque. Mark Heller, ex officio school, Jim Delaney, ex officio Select Board. Chris Norris.

School Board: Dean Barker, Mark Heller, Michelle Dudek, Annie Mackenzie, Brian Gilman, Mark MacLeann (SAU 46 Superintendent), Randy Wormald (SAU 46 Asst. Superintendent), Robin Heins (SAU 46 – Business Administrator), Jane Slayton (AEMS Principal), Judith Turk (AEMS Assistant Principal).

Mark Heller presented the 2018-2019 school budget.

Overview of the increases proposed for 2018-2019 – total is \$134,003

Review of decreases (\$27,841)

Overall Operating Budget Changes - \$106,164 – 1.99%

54% of the net increase is interest on the loan

Robin explained the meaning of “adjusted” on p. 5 and how it relates to the 2900 support services.

Line item review continued:

- 14 more students to MV next year. Tuition increase to come from anticipated fund balance. (52-66 students = \$168k increase)

- PT Custodians to be replaced by 1 full time (adds benefits)

- \$925 in increased meeting costs (school board under operations)

- Conversation about “legal” expense under sub-total contracted services.

- \$5k increase in Physical Plant “cleaning” increase of \$5k. Elevator and septic issues were cited as reason for the increase. Clarification... it’s really repair and maintenance – not “cleaning”

- Kudos for negotiating a great rate of \$1.71 for heating oil.

A question was raised about the continuous increase in transportation – What do we do about this? \$13,848 increase for 2018-2019. Is it better to own or contract?

Study conducted a few years ago indicated contract was the better route. The contract with First Student has 2 more years with escalators built in. Roughly 200 students depend on bus service.

Brief discussion on Debt service. The first payment of principal is the largest. The \$240k should be locked moving forward. Interest will decline.

Are there anticipated increases looking toward the horizon? Indicators are positive that, if anything, costs might go down with the building improvements. Also, there is

hope that State infrastructure grants might offer some funding for improvements which qualify as “life safety” improvements.

Discussion about the tax rate computation. Noted that the warrant article of \$34,860 for teacher raises is not presently included in the computation.

Additional kindergarten revenue (\$30K) to come from grant funding.

Also noted that if Medicaid goes to a block grant program, public education may not get any funding.

Review of minutes from 1/3 Highway, Library, Transfer Station,

Note made that there will be a change in the budget due to new quote for grader tires. Discussion about the White Oak Pit and the bureaucratic hoops needed to navigate the process.

EH moved to approve minutes – MH seconded. Unanimous approval.