

School Committee Minutes
Town Meeting Room
Thursday, December 8, 2011
6:00 pm.

Members attending: Keith Cheveralls, SusanMary Redinger, Piali De, PattyWenger, Kirsten Wright.

Others present: Joseph Connelly, Lorraine Leonard, Pamela DeGregorio, Linda Dwight, Gretchen Henry and Peggy Bragg.

Keith Cheveralls called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the proposed budget for 2012-2013. No votes taken.

Special Education Director, Pamela DeGregorio presented and reviewed account lines related to the Special Education budget.

The committee asked that the Special Education annual report to the town deliver the message that we have invested where we need to and in doing so have decreased the special education population in our schools. Pam DeGregorio discussed the possibility of adding a Middle School Language Based Program which is Item #4 in the “prioritized list of additional FY13 budgetary needs”. Adding this program would meet the needs of 5+ students with communication impairments. Additionally, the committee would like to have the cost associated with having all learning assistants attend professional development workshops on early release and professional development days passed on to the Professional Development Committee.

HES Principal, Linda Dwight presented and reviewed account lines related to the Hildreth Elementary School budget.

The committee discussed the need to purchase math and reading curriculum, the timeline for implementation and the funding source. Dr. Dwight discussed the items from the “prioritized list of additional FY13 budgetary needs” that pertained to the HES budget including Item #2 – Increase the kindergarten staff from 3.5 to 4.0 teachers, Item #3 – Hire three (3) Recess/Lunchroom supervisors to provide consistent coverage at HES, Item # 5 – Library Aide for HES to help maintain the library circulation and other services. Item #6 – Additional Classroom Teacher at HES to address projected large class size in Grade 3, Item #7 – Increase one secretarial position at HES to 12 month position, Item #8 Increase School Guidance Counselors work year by 4 to 8 days to assist with new student orientation and related transition efforts. Item #11 – Continue World Language Program, Item #12 – Establish a Stipend for HES Nature’s Classroom planning and coordination, Item #15 – HES exterior lighting in front and back parking lot.

The Superintendent, Joseph Connelly reviewed accounts related to the Central Office Cost Center.

Dr. Connelly explained the line item increases in wellness and the TSA match to reflect actual spent. The professional development salary line was added in order to charge related professional development salary expenses directly to the line. Professional development initiatives were identified for all staff.

The committee discussed and reviewed the subsidy and offset page and discussed all sources of revenue that could offset the FY13 budget.

Next steps:

Complete the financial picture after the presentation from the Technology Committee on Monday.

Schedule a meeting with the Finance Committee, hopefully after January 9th.

Deliberate and prioritize all information that has been compiled and presented and make final decisions on the complete FY13 budget package.

Vote the FY13 proposed budget at the February 14, 2012 meeting.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to adjourn at 9:15 p.m.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion.

Mary Zadroga
Recording Secretary