

**Hopkinton Budget Committee  
Town Hall  
September 16, 2009**

**Present:** Patrice Gerseny – Chair; Marion Paxton; Cameron Ford; David Lancaster; Karen Irwin; Danny Coen; David Luneau – School Board; Tom O'Donnell – Hopkinton Village Precinct

**Invited Guests:** Steve Chamberlin, Superintendent; Michelle Clark, Business Administrator

**Absent:** George Langwasser – Selectmen; Bob Carpenter; Contoocook Village Precinct

**Meeting Start:** 6:35pm

Marion Paxton began by referring to the booklet from the Local Government Center [LGC], asking whether proper procedure was followed in order to hold a special school meeting. Superintendent Chamberlin said the school district counsel, Tom Barry, checked the laws and district regulations and okayed the meeting.

Superintendent Chamberlin advised that he had checked with the supervisor of the checklist and was told that there were 634 registered voters at the annual school meeting in March. The special school meeting will have to have 50% plus 1 or 318 registered voters in order for the meeting to be held. In order for either of the contracts to pass, each will need a simple majority of voters in attendance.

**Questions from Budget Committee Members**

**Tom O'Donnell** – Can the contracts be amended:

**Superintendent Chamberlin** – Yes

**Danny Coen** – Will the contracts, if passed, be affected by Evergreen?

**David Luneau** – Yes, Evergreen allows only step increases to continue. Out of the budget passed at a subsequent Annual Meeting and the next contract[s] are voted down, school employees will get step increases. School Administrators will then have to determine where to allocate the remaining money.

**Dave Lancaster** expressed concern that the more budget dollars go to the teachers the less going to the kids.

**Cameron Ford** – When do step increases take effect this year?

**Superintendent Chamberlin** Evergreen will only kick in if there is ever a new contract that isn't passed.

**Karen Irwin** - How many teachers at each step?

**Superintendent Chamberlin** 34 teachers are in the step process. Each step increase is roughly \$1900.00.

**Danny Coen** – If evergreen takes effect, and if pay raises are not approved, what is the Boards thought on reducing staff or programs to offset the costs?

**David Luneau** The School Board looks for ways to improve ways to help kids succeed.

**Chair Gerseny** – HESS forgave any increases, would the HEA effective after the meeting include any retro amounts of money?

**Superintendent Chamberlin** HESS is staying at the same pay for 1 year. HEA is not retro, the monies are for increased insurance.

**Tom O'Donnell & Cameron Ford** expressed concern on the cost of evergreen only being \$65,000.

**Superintendent Chamberlin** \$65,000 is this year only.

**Questions to be answered at next meeting-**

Karen Irwin – Would like to know the number of HEA and HESS step increases at 1%, 2%, 3%, etc.

Dave Lancaster – The Cost of Attendance Bonus – the full impact including subs.

Marion Paxton – How many HEA are in their 1<sup>st</sup> year, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 3<sup>rd</sup> year, etc. and how many are new.

Discussion then moved to the Public Hearing. Chair Gerseny will work with Superintendent Chamberlin on a power point presentation. The power point presentation should highlight the new contract additions, the impact: to the teachers; to the overall town; and the tax impact cost/thousand.

**Public Comment**

Beth Bloomquist questioned the attendance bonus and teacher days off.

**Superintendent Chamberlin** advised HEA gets 4 personal days and 16 sick days. Bonus decreases with teacher absences.

A teacher using:            0 sick and 2 personal is eligible for 2.5 x 225  
                                         1 sick and 2 personal = 2.0 x 225  
                                         Etc.

No bonus after 7 days off.

Subs get \$65 per day and teachers subbing get \$30 per class.

Danny Coen left at 8pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Clark  
Secretary