

**HOPKINTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
TOWN HALL
JANUARY 5, 2011
approved**

Members Present: Janet Krzyaniak, Chair; Tom O'Donnell, HVP Representative; Mark Hemmerlein, CVP Representative; Don Lane, David Luneau, School Board Representative; Tim Carney, Jim O'Brien, Selectman Representative; Karen Irwin, Cameron Ford, David Lancaster

Others Present: Steve Chamberlin, Superintendent of Schools; Michelle Clark, Business Administrator

Janet Krzyaniak opened the Budget Committee meeting at 6:30 PM. She asked that the meeting start with the School Board Presentation and then onto the minutes. All present were in agreement.

1. School Board Presentation to Budget Committee:

David Luneau began the Budget meeting with a Power Point presentation of the School District Budget. Also an informational packet was given to all. The School Board met with the Leadership Team and recommended that the budget proposal's be broken down into 4 areas of criteria:

- *Educationally sound yet conservative.
- *Reductions that would offset programs.
- *Reductions that would significantly affect programs.
- *Reductions that do not meet the goals of the Hopkinton School District.

The total 2010 - 2011 Operational Budget was \$16,167,060.00. The proposed Total Operational Budget for 2011 - 2012 is \$16,523,601.00, a 2.2% increase. The major increases are in the following areas:

- *Health and Dental insurance, and retirement.
- *Salary increases for HEA members - The teachers are in the first year of a two-year contract agreed upon at the March of 2010 school meeting.
- *Increase in equipment.
- *Regular, Special Ed. and Vocational transportation increase.

*Additional instructional assistant positions to meet student needs.

*Six new middle school sports.

*Increase in heating oil and gasoline.

*Salary increases for support staff - These increases are costs associated with the Evergreen Law. (At the time of this meeting, the HSD and the Hopkinton Educational Support Staff are in negotiations.)

*Increase in unemployment insurance.

*Salary increase due to some non-union raises.

*Increase in contracted and professional services.

Major decreases are in the following areas:

*Reduction and changes in personnel - at the time of this meeting there are four staff members requesting early retirement as well as one support staff member.

*Decrease in supplies.

*Change in Life and LTD insurance company.

*Decreases to other lines that are immaterial.

Total Revenue in 2010 -2011 was \$5,342,596.00. Major increases for 2011 - 2012:

*Student Activity Fees

*Transfer from health insurance trust fund.

Major decreases for 2011 - 2012:

*State Adequacy Aid: Statewide Property Tax

*State Adequate Aid: Education Grant.

*School Building Aid.

*Other immaterial decreases.

Total proposed 2011 - 2012 revenue: \$5,207,117.00

There was some discussion about the expansion of the Middle School Sports program. This proposal originated from the community. It is intended to improve accessibility to the students by expanding the number of students that can attend these sports. Also consistency in practices, coaches, etc. and aligns with sports programs within neighboring schools systems. It is intended to be "cost neutral" by raising the sport fees from \$50.00 per sport to \$65.00 per sport.

The HSD proposes to raise \$75,000.00 for the Contingency Fund to cover some uncertainties. Michelle Clark is not sure that the State of NH will cover all of the retirement funds. This line item can only be moved by School Board action.

The Health Insurance Capital Reserve Fund has \$25,000.00 in it currently. The HSD proposes to add another \$25,000.00 to this reserve. They also would like to remove \$20,000.00 from this fund only if the estimated health insurance increase is matched by the actual increase. The goal is to not utilize these funds.

Benefits for Health Insurance have increased significantly. Nine employees of the district signed on for Health Insurance this school year. All employees are paying more for prescription drugs as well as retirement. As for Unemployment Insurance, that increased as well. This benefit increased statewide.

Under Building and Transportation property services went down because the Town of Hopkinton took over the up keep of George's Park and the snow plowing of the schools. Heating oil and gasoline both will see an increase in price. The boiler at the SAU building needs replacing in the near future. Once a new boiler is in place, a decrease in oil consumption should be noticeable. Electricity for the district is set a certain rate for 24 months. This is a savings for the district. The school buses are under contracted services. \$5200.00 is proposed for transportation of the 6 new middle school sports teams. Special Ed. transportation has increased as well.

The estimated tax impact at this time is \$.98 per thousand. Steve Chamberlin stated that the cost per pupil is right in line with other districts in NH.

2. Minutes:

Janet Krzyaniak a review of the December 15, 2010 meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Mark Hemmerlein and seconded by Cameron Ford, all were in favor.

3. Financial updates for the school, town and precincts will be reported on at the next Budget Committee meeting (January 12, 2011). Janet was approached to write a brief article for the Town Report. One was written for the 2010 report. Some members of this committee read the report and felt that it could be used again.
4. Public concerns and comments:
No public present.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jim O'Brien and seconded by David Lancaster. The Budget Committee adjourned at 9:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise A. Damour