

TOWN OF GILFORD  
BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 29, 2018  
6:30 PM

Members present: Joseph Wernig, Tracie Corbett, Kristin Snow, Timothy Sullivan, Thomas Chase Richard Grenier, Sean Murphy, S. Peter Karagianis, Karen Thurston, Susan Greene, David "Skip" Murphy and Jack Kelley.

Chairman Sean Murphy called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 6:30 pm, established there was a quorum present and Richard Grenier led the assembly with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of minutes: The Budget Committee reviewed the 11/27/18 meeting minutes. There were two small changes made. Peter Karagianis made a motion to accept the 11/27/18 minutes as corrected; seconded by Sue Greene and passed; (11-0-1). Karen Thurston abstained.

Public comment:

Chair Sean Murphy asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

School Technology Subcommittee report: Kristin Snow reviewed the Technology subcommittee report stating when the subcommittee met with Brenda McGee, School District Technology Director; she provided an extensive overview of technology usage. Dr. Snow reported the District has approximately 1300 Chromebooks and 360 pc/desktop computers. Dr. Snow said that Contracted Services Computer/Technology District Wide (line 56430-10) has a proposed increase of \$25,000; the proposed increase is to cover costs for two new mandatory requirements; Data Security requirement and a Federal mandate for all public school websites to meet ADA compliance regulations. Ms. McGee explained both in detail. Discussions ensued. Skip Murphy would like to see narratives split out in to GL accounts, to see individual costs. He listed those accounts to Superintendent Beitler. Superintendent Beitler will get those individual costs. Lengthy discussions ensued around technology, google docs, data security, privacy issues, etc. Jack Kelley made a motion to approve the School District Technology budget for \$462,263 as recommended by the subcommittee; seconded by Kristin Snow and passed; (12-0).

Special Education Subcommittee report: Peter Karagianis gave a detailed overview on the 2019/2020 Special Education Budget. Ms. Esther Kennedy said that the Special Education budget is fluid; it is hard to predict as the special needs population can move in or out of Gilford at unexpected times and costs could go up or down for the School District depending on those variables. Ms. Kennedy said that approximately 16.3% of students into the district are special needs. Mr. Karagianis reviewed the changes in the Elementary School, the Middle School and the High School relative to the Special Education and reviewed the district wide staff to Special Education to handicapped students ratio. Overall, there was 3.5%, or \$138,570 increase in the 2019-2020 budget. Discussion ensued. Richard Grenier made a motion to accept the Special Education budget for \$3,393,168 as recommended by the subcommittee; seconded by Tracie Corbett and passed; (10-0-2). Tom Chase and Skip Murphy abstained.

Approved by the Budget Committee 12/06/2018

Federal Projects subcommittee: Peter Karagianis reviewed the 2019-2020 budget on Federal Projects. These Federal Grants are derived from Federal tax dollars that are used to offset or enhance educational costs within the School District. Peter reviewed the Title I Grant. Karen Thurston said that the Federal Government changed the level of income to qualify for free reduced lunch (raised level of income). Approximately 18% of the student population receive free or reduced lunch. Peter Karagianis went on to review Title II grant, IDEA Grant, Pre-school Grant and Title IV Grant. Discussions ensued. Sean Murphy made a motion to accept the Federal Projects budget for \$467,627 as recommended by the subcommittee; seconded by Richard Grenier and passed; (11-0-1). Skip Murphy abstained.

Public comment:

Chair Sean Murphy asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

Meeting schedule: Chair, Sean Murphy discussed moving the budgets scheduled for discussion/review on 12/20/18 to another meeting night. Discussion ensued. The Budget Committee unanimously agreed to keep the schedule as it is.

Article on substitute teachers: Susan Greene distributed an article that she printed out from a Nashua newspaper. The basis of the article was that Nashua School District was floating the idea of eliminating high school substitute teachers and replacing them with a learning center; essentially a library of digital tools created for academic pursuits and would be overseen by a certified teacher and allow collaborative and online work as well as independent learning. Discussion ensued. Ms. Greene asked Superintendent Beitler the rate of absenteeism for teachers. Superintendent Beitler will get that information and distribute and will bring this article/information to the School Board.

Recycle Center clarification: Selectman Grenier was aware of the discussion that took place at the meeting he was absent from on the Recycle Center Project and explained in detail why the Board of Selectmen made the decisions that they have made thus far on this project. He felt he needed to clarify some details. The Budget Committee thanked him for this summary.

Adjourn

With no further business to come before the Committee, Richard Grenier made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Skip Murphy and passed; (12-0). The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Angeja A. Bovill  
Executive Assistant