

**TOWN OF GILFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
BUDGET COMMITTEE**

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT- School District Federal Projects

Date: November 28, 2017

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: School District Office – Downstairs conference room

Budget Committee subcommittee members: Chan Eddy, Peter Karagianis, Tim Sullivan, Skip Murphy
School District Employee: Kirk Bietler, Scott Isabelle, Esther Kennedy, Steve Tucker

Discussions:

Title I Federal funds make it possible to support the lowest 20% of students in a class (First, Second, Third, and Fourth Grade as well as Summers) in the areas of Math, Reading, and Language Arts. It was explained that a given student may be getting assistance in all three areas, or just two, or just one. The services are rendered during “small group” time where the Title I teachers will come into the classroom(s) and tend to those students while the regular teacher attends to the other students in the class. The students that are supported are often those students that are on free or reduced lunches and those students classified as English as another language. Some of the money is also used for Title I teachers to learn new techniques. Students are selected at the beginning of each new trimester as their needs change (some “graduate” and some now require that extra assistance).

Title I payments are always in arrears and is a pay-as-you-go system versus being a block grant. Services are delivered, billed, and then reimbursed back to the District out of the allocation sent to the State (filtered through the NH Board of Education) from the Feds.

Title II is a grant program used to improve teacher and Principal quality”...and ensure that all teachers are highly qualified”. This is supplemented by General Fund monies and is used, in part, for the \$400/teacher on programs of their choice. I had previously asked Scott Isabelle, given that new curriculum programs seemed to always being started when I was previously on the Committee, if any new curriculum was in play? The answer was no but Scott Tucker, during this discussion, answer that there is a writing program (now in its second year). A discussion on “Scholastic Quality Assurance” (Hat Tip: Chan Eddy) ensued where the discussion centered on what metrics, if ANY, were being used to measure the effectiveness of the change in relationship to the now-displaced pedagogy (never got a direct answer). There was also a discussion on “highly qualified” teachers as that was also a big deal; now it just means that a teacher has a certification in a given area. While Kirk said that teachers are interviewed from time to time, no specific metrics could be teased out of the discussion.

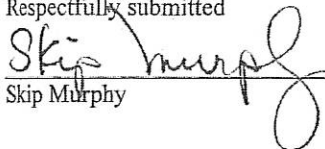
IDEA grant – this is strictly for special education students, aged 3-21 years of age, that need much more support than Title I students and can be in non-educational areas (speech, psychological assistance, occupational and physical therapy) and may need placement outside of the District because the ability to meet a given need may not be possible within the SAU. While the budgetary numbers were given (more on that in a moment), it was agreed that like the Welfare Office on the Municipal side, the District must spend what it must to meet either the collective or singular special need. Thus, the budget numbers can be just a formality; “it is what it will be”.

A discussion was also had vis-a-vis Article 28-A – I will be contacting Frank Edleblut (State Education Commissioner) on this issue.

One note – the discussions concluded, it was agreed upon that the “Proposed Budget” for each year would be better described by the colloquialism of “W.A.G.” (i.e., Wild *** Guess) as it is totally out of the District's control what monies are allocated to it in these areas. I noted to the subcommittee members that the numbers for each area over the years are fairly uniform and consistent,

Thereupon, upon a motion duly made (Chan Eddy), seconded (Peter Karagianis) and unanimously approved, the subcommittee recommended approval of the budget for the Federal Projects as recommended by the School Board.

Respectfully submitted


Skip Murphy

From additional information from Scott Isabelle, I put together this small spreadsheet showing the amounts over last few years:

Gilford School District
2012-2018
Federal Projects

	Current Budget 2011-2012	Proposed Budget 2012-2013	Current Budget 2012-2013	Proposed Budget 2013-2014	Current Budget 2013-2014	Proposed Budget 2014-2015	Current Budget 2014-2015	Proposed Budget 2015-2016	Current Budget 2015-2016	Proposed Budget 2016-2017	Current Budget 2016-2017	Proposed Budget 2017-2018
le I Grant	\$133,061.00	\$133,061.00	\$133,061.00	\$133,494.00	\$133,494.00	\$153,494.00	\$153,494.00	\$185,066.00	\$185,066.00	\$185,066.00	\$185,066.00	\$173,484.
le II Grant	\$54,207.00	\$44,576.00	\$44,575.00	\$47,121.00	\$47,121.00	\$42,265.00	\$42,265.00	\$42,265.00	\$42,265.00	\$42,265.00	\$42,265.00	\$42,265.
EA Grant	\$235,831.00	\$235,831.00	\$235,831.00	\$241,219.00	\$241,219.00	\$224,564.00	\$224,564.00	\$242,204.00	\$242,204.00	\$242,204.00	\$242,204.00	\$246,906.
School Grant	\$3,041.00	\$3,041.00	\$3,041.00	\$2,975.00	\$2,975.00	\$2,764.00	\$2,764.00	\$2,764.00	\$2,764.00	\$2,764.00	\$2,764.00	\$2,764.
Totals	\$426,140.00	\$416,508.00	\$416,508.00	\$424,809.00	\$424,809.00	\$423,087.00	\$423,087.00	\$472,299.00	\$472,299.00	\$472,299.00	\$472,299.00	\$465,419.