

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
DECEMBER 8, 2005

Budget Committee Members Present

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman
Michael Plouffe, Vice Chairman
Ginny Russell, Selectman Representative
John Bridle, School Board Representative
John Kane, Precinct Representative
Maury Friedman
Dick Hansen
Richard Nichols
Michael Pierce
Charlie Preston

Excused

Jack Lessard

Unexcused

Russ Bernstein
Pat Collins
William Lally
Eileen Latimer

Others Present

Jim Gaylord, Superintendent, SAU21; Fred Muscara, Principal of the Academy Junior High School; David O'Connor, Principal of Marsten School; Sara Stenson, Director of Special Education; Mary Ann Puchlopek, Technical Director; Keith Lessard, Facilities Manager; Sister Joan Marie Walsh, Principal, Sacred Heart School; David Schwab, Sacred Heart Advisory Board.

Chairman Woolsey called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Chairman Woolsey introduced the members of the Budget Committee

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Approval of Minutes – December 6, 2005

Moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Nichols, to approve the Minutes of December 6, 2005.

Vote: 10 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Woolsey said that this meeting was a work session for the Hampton School budget for 2006-2007.

Warrant Article #7 – Sacred Heart School

Moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Hansen, to approve the following:

Warrant Article #7 – Sacred Heart School - \$51,000

Mr. Nichols asked what child benefit services were. Mr. Schwab replied that these are benefits for children who go to Sacred Heart School and include things such as a nurse, additional technology, testing, guidance and psychological testing, supplies and textbooks.

Chairman Woolsey said this article is intended to bring opportunities up to the same level as in the other schools.

Ms. Russell commended Sister Joan Marie Walsh for her wonderful work at Sacred Heart School.

Vote: 10 yes,, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Hampton School Operating Budget for 2006-2007

Moved by Mr. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to approve the following:

Hampton School Operating Budget for 2006-2007 \$16,215,752

Mr. Gaylord said the budget is up approximately 2%.

Mr. Bridle then addressed specific sections of the budget.

Regular Education

Chairman Woolsey, referring to the item for the hiring of a second language teacher, asked how many students this affects. Mr. Gaylord said that the numbers vary, but it is the school's responsibility to provide English language training. This teacher would rotate between the schools.

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Special Education

Mr. Gaylord introduced Sara Stenson. Ms. Stenson said that they try to maintain high quality staff so it is possible to keep these children in the neighborhood schools. They have increased many services and brought in consultants and significantly increased pre-school services.

Chairman Woolsey asked about grants. Ms. Stenson said their federal grant is approximately \$260,000.

Enrichment and Student Activities

Mr. Kane asked about film fest equipment for \$11,000. Mr. Muscara said most of the cost is equipment and the school district will own the equipment.

Ms. Russell asked what children do who can't afford to go to the environmental camp. Mr. Muscara said there is fundraising and those funds are earmarked for this purpose. Nobody is left behind. Chairman Woolsey said that the cornerstone of public education in this country should be that all opportunities are available to all.

Guidance and Health Services

Mr. Bridle said that it is important to have health and guidance services in each school.

Speech Services and Other Student Services

Mr. Gaylord said there is much emphasis placed on "at risk" youngsters. Ms. Russell said that there is much opportunity to volunteer in the schools. Today's school is different than yesterday's.

Chairman Woolsey asked about background checks for those who volunteer in the schools. Mr. Gaylord said that everyone who receives a stipend does have a background check.

Improvement of Instruction and Educational Media

Mr. Bridle said that the School Board is looking at the area of testing.

Technology and Support Services

Mr. Bridle said that technology is ever present and always changing. This area includes tech services, food services, school resource officer.

Board of Education, SAU Services and School Administration

Chairman Woolsey noted that there was a significant raise in legal expenses for 2004-05. Mr. Gaylord said that was due to a special situation and it will not be that high in the future.

Ms. Russell asked about increase in administrator salaries. Mr. Bridle said that the union people automatically receive raises, but the salary rates for administrators were flattened. The School Board looked at salaries for similar positions in other communities and found that Hampton's salaries were low.

Buildings, Grounds and Vehicle Operations

Mr. Bridle said that Mr. Lessard is the Facilities Manager and he is responsible for all three buildings. This includes taking care of both the grounds and the buildings.

When asked about the increase in playground maintenance, Mr. Lessard said this is for the safety material which has to be continuously replaced.

Transportation

Mr. Gaylord said that the amount for bussing is the lowest bid they received. Tiering does not exist anymore.

Debt Service

Mr. Gaylord explained that this is for principal payments on bond issues for building projects.

Mr. Kane asked if these loans could be refinanced at a lower rate. Mr. Gaylord said these loans are not eligible for refinancing.

Employee Benefits

Mr. Friedman asked what the total number of employees is who are covered under these benefits. Mr. Gaylord said approximately 800. Employees must work a certain number of hours to qualify for health insurance.

Food Service

Chairman Woolsey said that food service at the schools has always been outstanding.

Estimated Revenues and Credits

Mr. Bridle explained general fund revenues and food service revenues.

Chairman Woolsey asked for a vote on the total operating budget of \$16,215,752 for the Hampton Schools for 2006-2007.

Vote: 9 yes, 1 no (Friedman). Motion passed.

Moved by Mr. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to approve the following:

Estimated Revenues	\$556,700
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Vote: 10 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Warrant Article #3 – Salaries and Benefits

Moved by Mr. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to recommend the following to go to Public Hearing.

Warrant Article #3 – Salaries and Benefits	\$24,763
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Vote: 10 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Warrant Article #4 – Technology Systems

Moved by Mr. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to recommend the following to go to Public Hearing.

Warrant Article #4 – Technology Systems	\$210,000
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Mr. Bridle explained that this article is to ensure that technology in the schools is updated. Ms. Puchlopek gave an overview of the systems that are being used for students and also for the training of teachers.

Vote: 10 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Warrant Article #5 – Building Maintenance

Moved by Mr. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to recommend the following to go to Public Hearing.

Warrant Article #5 – Building Maintenance

Vote: 10 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Warrant Article #6 – Planner/Architects

Moved by Mr. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to recommend the following to go to Public Hearing.

Warrant Article #6 – Planner/Architects \$45,000

Mr. Gaylord explained that this is actually for two studies, one engineering and one educational. He assured the Committee that this is for upgrading and not for a new addition.

Vote: 9 yes, 1 no (Friedman). Motion passed.

Chairman Woolsey said the next meeting will be January 10, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. The purpose of this meeting will be to review the Town special money articles. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Bridle **moved**, seconded by Mr. Preston, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman