

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
December 11, 2008

Budget Committee Members Present

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman  
Michael Plouffe, Vice-Chairman  
Richard Nichols, Selectman Representative  
Gary Kubik, Precinct Representative (7:20 p.m.)  
Rusty Bridle, School Board Representative  
Maury Friedman  
Dick Hansen  
Eileen Latimer  
Jack Lessard  
Michael Pierce  
Norman Silberdick  
Larry Stuker

Excused

Victor DeMarco  
Peter Traynor

Unexcused

Pat Collins

Chairman Woolsey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Woolsey introduced the members of the Committee

**Approval of Minutes – December 4, 2008-12-15**

**Moved** by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to approve the Minutes of December 4, 2008.

**Vote:** 7 yes, 0 no, 4 abstentions (Bridle, Friedman, Latimer, Silberdick). Motion passed.

Chairman Woolsey said the Hampton School Budget for 2009-2010 would be discussed at this meeting. She welcomed Maureen Ward, Assistant Superintendent, Sandra Nickerson, Chairman of the School Board, and Bob Barry, Finance Officer.

### **Operating Budget**

**Moved** by Mr. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to recommend to the public hearing the amount of \$18,186,646 for the Hampton School Operating Budget for 2009-2010.

Dr. Ward said that the budget is up by 1.9%. This does not include any SESPA. That will be on a warrant article. There was a retirement and the person leaving did not take the medical plan. Because of this \$11,329 needs to be added to the operating budget to compensate for medical benefits for a replacement. There were increases in transportation, salaries and wages. There were decreases in professional development, supplies, books, print media and technology.

Mr. Silberdick said that from his experience working on the sub-committee that looked at the budget, he feels that there are still some additional cuts that could be made. Mr. Silberdick also mentioned that there were recommendations from administration that were not adopted by the School Board.

Mr. Friedman asked about the school population. Dr. Ward said this year there is a population of 1,239 vs. 1,231 last year.

Mr. Lessard said he felt this was a good budget. Mr. Plouffe said he felt this budget was as tight as it could be.

Mr. Pierce said he went over the budget while working on the sub-committee. He said he did not agree with cutting the technology monies. This is important in today's world. Mr. Pierce referred to past surpluses at the end of the year and said he felt there could be level funding and still come out with a surplus. Mr. Pierce discussed other reductions recommended by administration, but not adopted by the school board which total \$282,500. Mr. Pierce said he would recommend level funding.

Mr. Silberdick said he felt the recommended reductions could be done. Ms. Latimer said she did not agree with Mr. Pierce or Mr. Silberdick. She said she felt it was a very well done and tight budget. She said there are many things beyond control. There is no more reimbursement for catastrophic aid or facilities. The surplus is declining every year. Ms. Latimer said she is not suggesting that the \$11,329 be added. She said she also is not happy with cutting the technology budget. Ms. Latimer said the budget should stay as it is.

Mr. Stuker asked about the administration recommended reductions. Regarding the reduction of a teacher at Centre School, Ms. Nickerson responded that it has long been a policy to keep class sizes down. Regarding reduction of two special education teachers, Ms. Nickerson said there really needs to be support in that area. Regarding the reduction

of the Home School Coordinator position, Ms. Nickerson said this is very important and problems can't be solved by using the Town Welfare Department. The Home School Coordinator has actually left, but the Outreach position hours have been increased. Regarding the payment to School Board, Ms. Nickerson said that is salary.

Ms. Latimer said you are talking about really young children at Centre School. This is their starting point and it is not good to increase class sizes. She said things can always change dramatically with Special Education and you must be prepared. Ms. Latimer said she was a former Welfare Officer and there is no way Town Welfare can take over the job of the Home Coordinator.

Dr. Ward said she wanted to be clear that there was no disagreement between the administration and the School Board. Administration presents recommendations that they actually hope the Board will not take. What is presented is what they feel they can absolutely do.

Mr. Bridle said that when this budget came to the School Board, they had asked for one that was as low as possible. The budget which they brought forth is a very good budget. There were some tough cuts made, but this budget should work.

Chairman Woolsey asked what happens to the surplus. Mr. Barry said the surplus goes back to offset the tax rate in the Town.

Chairman Woolsey said she did not want the public to think the schools are sitting on a large amount of money. This money is disbursed monthly by the Town Finance Officer.

Mr. Nichols said he felt the schools should be commended for returning the surplus money, but this points out that the budget is high. He said he is concerned about having some kind of plan for declining enrollments.

Chairman Woolsey said that you are dealing with public education. The screening, coding and special needs of children are growing rather than declining. Chairman Woolsey said she felt this was a remarkably good budget. It also must be considered that the revenue stream has been cut in half.

Mr. Friedman said this group needs to look beyond what has been looked at so far. What nobody has addressed is what is out in the future.

**Moved** by Mr. Stuker, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move the question.

**Vote:** 11 yes, 1 no (Friedman). Motion passed.

**Amendment moved** by Mr. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to increase the Operating Budget for the Schools to \$18,197,975

**Amendment moved** by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Silberdick, to decrease the Operating Budget for the Schools to \$17,845,884.

Ms. Latimer said the Budget Committee's job is to decide whether this budget is reasonable.

**Vote:** 5 yes, 7 no (Bridle, Kubik, Latimer, Lessard, Plouffe, Stuker, Woolsey, Amendment failed.

Chairman Woolsey asked for a vote on the prior amendment increasing the operating budget to \$18,197,975.

**Vote:** 7 yes, 5 no (Friedman, Hansen, Nichols, Pierce, Silberdick). Amendment passed.

### **Revenues**

**Moved** by Mr. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to accept the estimated Revenues in the amount of \$672,266.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Warrant Articles**

Warrant Article #2 – Cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hampton School Board and the Seacoast Educational Support Personnel Association

**Moved** by Mr. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to recommend to the Public Hearing Warrant Article #2.

Ms. Nickerson said this is the agreement for para-professionals.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Warrant Article #3 – Repair & Maintenance

**Moved** by Mr. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to recommend to the Public Hearing Warrant Article #3.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Warrant Article #4 – City Year Program

**Moved** by Mr. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to recommend to the Public Hearing Warrant Article #4.

Chairman Woolsey said she thought it inappropriate to submit an article on behalf of any private organization. She said the Committee should hold on this and wait for a private petition.

Ms. Latimer said she agrees with the work done by City Year, but not in this format.

**Moved** by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Silberdick, to withdraw temporarily on Warrant Article #4.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Warrant Article #5 – Child Benefit Services (Sacred Heart School)

**Moved** by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Hansen, to recommend to the Public Hearing Warrant Article #5.

Ms. Latimer said she would like to know if other towns contribute.

Ms. Nickerson said Hampton is the only one that contributes.

Ms. Latimer noted that Sacred Heart's enrollment is decreasing, but the request is increasing.

Mr. Silberdick said this is a petition to support a private school. These children could easily be absorbed into public school.

**Vote:** 5 yes, 7 no (Bridle, Hansen, Kubik, Latimer, Nichols, Pierce, Silberdick). Motion failed.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 13, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at which time there will be a review of the Town Money Articles.

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**Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice  
Secretary

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Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairmanj