

APPROVED

Public Hearing and Budget Committee Meeting

February 6, 2018

Members Present: T Smith, G Rumph, M Traister, B Stewart, and R Spaulding.
Also present: S Petralia (SAU50), A Ransom (SAU50), D Latchaw (MHT),
R Lynch (School Board), D Frampton (Selectboard).

A quorum of the Budget Committee members being present, the Chairman commenced meeting Public Hearing at 5:00 pm. The quorum was present throughout the hearing and meeting.

This public hearing is in compliance with RSA 32:11 for the purpose of potentially authorizing the New Castle School District's application for the use of contingency funds.

Ms Ransom briefly described the FY 2018 shortfall and the source of funding. The contingency amount is \$30K which is part of the 2.5% retainage cap allowed in the school budget. A brief discussion took place regarding the amount of retainage.

The BC voted 5-0 in favor to authorize the SC to use these funds. SAU will provide a letter for the Chairman to sign stating: "The New Castle Budget Committee endorse and support the emergency expenditure authorization request from the New Castle School District in the amount of \$30,000 from the District Contingency Fund."

Public Hearing closed at 5:11pm and BC Meeting called to order.

Minutes of 02-01-17 meeting were approved after a lengthy discussion that clarified the components of the principals proposed overall compensation and salary increase. A discussion ensued regarding the way the principal's and other SAU50 managers' contracts were written and the benefits and drawbacks of specifying the number of days they are expected to work in each academic year.

Ms Ransom presented a revised budget and memo to the BC indicating a total of \$9,300 is cut from the budget. The memo (Attachment 1) listing the 6 accounts is attached.

Mr Spaulding explained a year-to-year comparison of MHT operation, after deducting extraordinary expenses, shows a budget increase of \$34,442 or 3.43%. The \$9,300 cut brings the increase to 2.5%. Refer to a copy of Mr Spaulding's email attached on page 3.

Mr Rumph asked if the reductions made to the school budget highlight the issues discussed at the previous BC meeting. Answer affirmative.

Mr Spaulding provided details about the STEM budget and the Tech plan.

Mr Lynch stated the school will increase its appropriation to the Library by \$750 and the amount is included in the final budget amount of \$2,202,921.

After additional discussion the BC voted in favor of accepting the final budget amount and the warrant article to appropriate funds into the tuition trust fund. These two articles will be presented and discussed at the Public Hearing next week and the SAU will provide the appropriate MS form for the BC to approve and sign.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:25pm.

Respectfully submitted

Tom F Smith, Chairman

The following is Mr Spaulding email of February 7th to all BC members:

Gentlemen,

FYI - Here is the analysis of MHT year to year that I tried to explain this evening.

Dick

Hoping to have a clearer picture of what is being budgeted for MHT on a year-to-year basis, I compiled a comparison last night. I tried to include only accounts that are directly related to the operation of MHT - staff salaries and benefits, curriculum materials, programs, maintenance, supplies, etc. (I omitted 10 expense categories. - tuition to other LEA's, transportation to other LEA's, pre-school, office of supt., school board, district clerk, treasurer, auditor, legal, and debt service.)

The year-to-year totals for all the directly related MHT accounts are as follows:

2017-18 \$1,003,967

2018-19. \$1,095,674

Increase \$91,707 9.13%

Most of that increase is accounted for by the three categories we are well aware of:

Tchr. Ret. Stipend - \$29,750

ESOL - \$27,515

NH Retirement - \$20,927

While all three relate directly to MHT staff and programs, the first two are extraordinary, though not unique, one-time items. But, if we remove those two from the increase calculation the increase total is reduced to \$34,442 - 3.43%.

If our target percentage increase for a positive, but frugal, MHT operating budget were to be 2.5% (like teacher salaries) we would need to make a \$9337 reduction from the currently proposed budget.

Attachment 1

MEMO

To: Members of the New Castle Budget Committee

From: Amy Ransom, Assistant Business Administrator

Date: February 6, 2018

Re: FY18-19 proposed budget cuts

Last night the New Castle School Board requested that the SAU office along with administration identify areas in the budget that could be reduced in order lower the impact of the school district's budget on the taxpayers of New Castle. Below please find the itemized list of the accounts that we identified. The total amount of the cuts equals \$9,300 bringing the new operating budget number to \$2,202,921. The cuts are highlighted in blue in the packets that were handed out to you this evening.

Acc 10.1490.321.00.10 After School Contracted Services (\$2,500)

Acc. 10.2311.110.10.10 School Board Salaries (\$900)

Acc. 10.2311.890.00.10 School Board Other (\$300)

Acc. 10.2318.330.00.10 Legal Expenses (1,500)

Acc. 10.2810.120.20.10 Curriculum Development (\$4,000)

Acc. 10.2820.592.00.10 Office Machine SAU 50 (\$100)

Greenland Central School 70 Post Road Greenland, NH 03840 (603) 431-6723 fax (603) 430-7683
Maude H. Trefethen School Cranfield Street New Castle, NH 03854 (603) 436-5416 fax (603) 427-1918
Newington Public School 133 Nimble Hill Road Newington, NH 03801 (603) 436-1482 fax (603) 427-0692
Rye Elementary School 461 Sagamore Road Rye, NH 03870 (603) 436-4731 fax (603) 431-6702
Rye Junior High School 501 Washington Road Rye, NH 03870 (603) 964-5591 fax (603) 964-3881