

SANBORN REGIONAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, December 8, 2016

A meeting of the Sanborn Regional Budget Committee was held on Thursday, December 8, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. The following were recorded as present:

SRSD BUDGET COMMITTEE

Annie Collyer, Chairperson
Charlton Swasey, Vice-Chairman
Cheryl Gannon
Sandi Rogers-Osterloh
Jack Kozec
Tammy Gluck, School Committee Representative
James Doggett
Ami Faria

The meeting began with a salute to the flag.

Ms. Collyer welcomed the administration, teachers and members of the public.

PROPOSED BUDGET REVIEW – HIGH SCHOOL

Principal Brian Stack explained there are two non-teaching periods per teacher per day. Every teacher teaches six courses out of the eight periods offered for students. Most days they have one planning period and duty period. That is for all teachers at the school. They all have common planning time.

Ms. Collyer asked if he could expand on the measurement of success on the use of the teaming model.

Mr. Stack explained how the small learning community came about. It began unofficially in 08/09 and the 10th grade was formalized in 2011. The freshman community model (FCC) then started similar to the 10th Grade project-based structure model.

Ms. Collyer indicated that each Committee member has heard from several different sources about discipline issues at the high school and asked them to comment.

Mr. Stack said he shares the discipline load with Mr. Turmelle and Ms. Hadwen.

Assistant Principal/Curriculum Director Michael Turmelle said discipline was an issue when he came on board seven years ago, however, it is very different today than it was seven years ago. They don't have the type of issues they had before or the amount of drug and alcohol use as before. Fights are almost non-existent, however, with 700 kids there will be issues.

Mr. Stack said there were 1,569 discipline referrals sent to them back in 2010/2011. He said last year they had 725 discipline referrals sent to them.

Ms. Collyer asked how they handle swearing by the kids. Mr. Turmelle explained they have a school policy which is a very strict document and it addresses that.

Assistant Principal/Freshman Learning Community Ann Hadwen described the Restorative Justice Model. It is intended to improve the climate and culture in the building.

Mr. Stack said we are now being proactive and being given situations before they escalate into disciplinary issues. Mr. Turmelle said the teaming model is done using a very systematic approach.

Ms. Rogers-Osterloh asked about the number of suspensions and when are teachers meeting during the work day. Ms. Hadwen said they meet typically during flexible learning time (FLT).

Mr. Stack explained out of the 725 disciplinary referrals, 40 of them were suspendable offenses.

Ms. Collyer asked at what point are the parents brought in. Mr. Stack said right away.

Ms. Gluck asked about after-school detention. Mr. Stack explained that they handle disciplinary consequences with after-school detention hosted by a paraprofessional, who also is available for tutoring at the same time. He said they haven't run Saturday detention in a decade. There is no change proposed in this budget line from last year.

Mr. Swasey asked them to explain what a problem-based approach to teaching and learning is.

Mr. Turmelle provided some examples. He said the students have to apply details to new world problems. It is the foundation to competency-based education.

Ms. Gannon questioned the dual enrollment program, out of state tuition on page 239 and asked what the \$17,500 fee for the NECC program is for.

Mr. Stack said it is for seniors. Northern Essex Community College is broken down into \$8,000 for each program and they run two courses. They charge students a smaller amount and there is money for textbooks and testing. They can have up to 22 students. There are currently below enrollment capacity.

Ms. Collyer asked if they are finding more kids are doing other dual enrollment programs instead and if we getting to the point where we have too many dual enrollment programs. Mr. Stack explained the options for the kids. Mr. Turmelle said those programs are meant to target different kids and those programs don't compete with each other.

Ms. Rogers-Osterloh asked how many took the test and didn't place in the NECC program. She asked if the students have to take both courses.

Mr. Stack said they have to take both. Ms. Hadwen said twenty kids took the test and only three didn't qualify. She said these courses are run at the school and the teachers come here.

Mr. Stack described the dual enrollment programs. Mr. Doggett asked if there is a limit where this program is not economically feasible to run. Mr. Stack explained it has to do more with the number of students and said there is no limit to the number of credits a student can take in a dual enrollment program.

Ms. Gluck asked about the decrease in substitute salary line.

Ms. Coppola explained they analyzed what the budget is versus what has been spent over the past four to five years and it was reduced accordingly based on usage. She added it is very difficult finding substitutes.

Mr. Swasey asked for clarification on the acronyms used throughout the budget. Seacoast School of Technology (SST), Full time employee (FTE), TBD (To be determined), English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Special Education (SPED), PSAT (Practice SAT), Advanced Placement (AP).

Ms. Catena explained for every test we submit, we receive a \$9.00 rebate. She said the AP is offset by revenue and it includes a rebate and kids paying for the test.

Ms. Faria questioned the \$12,000 in the books line item and asked if the proposed FY18 is the aggregate of all the books in all subjects.

Mr. Turmelle said the \$12,000 should actually be labeled new curriculum, new programs because it has to do with Chromebooks. The other piece is \$13,000 for English novels. He said there is also \$500 per subject area for teacher resources and materials.

Ms. Coppola informed the Committee all that detail is in the 5-year textbook plan.

Ms. Faria questioned the decrease from last year to this year.

Ms. Coppola explained there were initiatives last year for Chromebooks and the text book line was reduced. She said that is why there is a significant reduction this year in the text book line.

Ms. Gannon questioned non-public programs and state institutions for \$177,000. She asked how many students are taking advantage of these various programs.

Ms. Coppola said that is for special education. She said they don't have the number of students but she can get that information.

Mr. Swasey asked Mr. Stack if he feels they are being asked to do too much beyond education. Mr. Stack responded that he thinks that the schools, in general, are a central source of services for the children in this community and added they do what they need to do to help kids learn.

Mr. Turmelle explained there is a dire need for a social worker in the District for the home to school piece. He commented that this is one of the most difficult Districts for home problems he has ever encountered.

Ms. Collyer asked if they call upon CLM for help. Mr. Turmelle explained CLM is in our school almost daily and they also use Seacoast Mental Health.

Ms. Gannon asked if we are average with the State on issues.

Mr. Turmelle said based on his experience, the amount of mental health issues in our students and parents in this community is startling.

Ms. Gluck referred to a DVD called "The Ever Increasing Burden of America's public schools." She said it was very interesting and thought the Budget Committee members might be interested in watching it. Ms. Collyer said Dr. Blake has shared it already with the community.

Ms. Rogers-Osterloh asked about professional salary - guidance at \$180,000 and asked how many counselors they have.

Mr. Stack said we have three full time guidance counselors. He said we also have a special education case manager and student assistance counselor but both of those are in different parts of the budget.

Mr. Swasey referred to Mr. Stack's 'Point of Pride' regarding how the average turnover of staff is below averages in the state. Mr. Stack said for the last several years we were below average, however, this year we had 16 positions to fill.

Ms. Rogers-Osterloh said it seems we have had a number of math programs and she asked how many have we had.

Mr. Stack said this is the first time in a decade the math program has been changed. He explained they are moving to a very different model and are building the program in house. He explained that over the next three years, it will replace Algebra 1 and 2 and it will be a much more intensive problem-based program.

Ms. Gluck asked if we are modeling this program after something else and asked how will it affect the 8th grade students.

Mr. Stack said they haven't completely solved it yet but the end goal will be the middle school students will be ready for high school math. He said right now they are only building the Math 1 program.

Ms. Gluck asked how honors math works. Mr. Stack said the expectations will be they would be taking the next level of Math as a freshman.

Mr. Doggett asked since they are going to revamp the math program, there will be some students who will have difficulty because it will not be how they learn and he asked what supports will be in place for them. Mr. Stack described the supports that will be provided.

PROPOSED BUDGET REVIEW - TECHNOLOGY

Ms. Collyer questioned the use of Chromebooks.

Director of Technology, Bob Ficker said the kids in K-8 don't take home the Chromebooks. Ms. Collyer questioned how the students do their homework if they don't take home their Chromebook.

Dr. Blake explained homework is assigned that doesn't necessarily require the use of that technology.

Mr. Ficker said the kids at the high school level do take home their Chromebooks. He stated in three months, they have sent out 40 Chromebooks to be repaired and they have only had five repairs from K – 8.

Ms. Collyer questioned if the 40 repairs are covered under warranty. Mr. Ficker said they are all under a one year warranty but not all the breakage is under warranty. The breakage that is not covered under warranty is paid for by the students.

Ms. Gannon asked where the costs paid for by the students show up in the budget.

Ms. Coppola explained they follow the State Department of Revenue guidelines so the money that comes in, is under Miscellaneous Revenue.

Mr. Doggett asked if we will be tracking data on the number of replacements units and asked if we have someone to program the Chromebooks we have in stock with the necessary applications.

Mr. Ficker explained we have a base image and have built app stores for the elementary, middle schools and high school.

Ms. Faria questioned the number of tech integrators we have. Mr. Ficker said we have one at the elementary and two at the middle schools. He added there has been no change in the area of staffing.

PROPOSED BUDGET REVIEW - ATHLETICS

Mr. Doggett asked if we have costs for every athletic program and do we track that information.

Athletic Director, Vicki Parady-Guay said we do not. She explained we have an athletic program that is very involved at the high school and middle school. There are a lot of things that are shared between the programs. She stated that in order to break them out and to truly get a cost that is broken down, is tough to do.

Mr. Doggett said that number is too large not to be able to look at it broken out in more detail.

Ms. Collyer asked if we could break down the cost for football, apart from transportation and facilities.

Ms. Parady-Guay said she can break down some things, however, some can be set costs by sport but won't be a true identity for each sport.

Ms. Rogers-Osterloh questioned the athletic equipment and if there is something specific they are looking at to replace with the \$24,000.

Ms. Parady-Guay explained this is what is in their 5-year replacement plan.

Ms. Gannon said we have a big high school and questioned why our teams are being transported off site for practices. She asked if it is because there is no room at the high school for practice.

Ms. Parady-Guay explained back when the high school was designed, they didn't have a football program. She stated the lockers are not adequate to house a football team. There are also many teams in the fall and explained the challenges they face. She explained they have these facilities to get kids practicing at good hours and play games, and they want to keep the fields in good condition for safety reasons.

Ms. Gannon asked if there are any plans for expansion. Ms. Parady-Guay explained they are landlocked all around out the back at the high school.

Ms. Faria referred to the 5 year capital improvement and asked if there are plans to renovate lockers at Chase field and if they are planning on ever renovating the locker room at the high school.

Ms. Parady-Guay said you would probably have to relocate the teams anyway, for field usage.

Ms. Rogers-Osterloh questioned having artificial turf and what the impact it would have on the field being used for other things.

Ms. Parady-Guay explained it would be very expensive and the longevity of artificial turf is about 12 to 15 years. The cost would be approximately \$1.5 million and there still are challenges and maintenance that come with artificial turf.

Ms. Collyer asked the Committee if they have any further questions on anything covered so far, to get those to her.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Giordano, a high student from Kingston, addressed the Committee. He stated he was very impressed with the administration tonight. He said they answered the Committee questions with very specific answers. He spoke on how the high school has helped him as a student and spoke of his experiences from a student's perspective. He also reminded the Committee that this is not a business but a school. Students cannot be sold or bought. They are not products or numbers.

Michael Gannon of Kingston addressed the Committee. He spoke on the athletics and is worried they will turn a blind eye to Chase Field. He said without that space, we will find that we won't experience nearly the success we have had over the years. He added that to forget about Chase Field, our students would lose out on an opportunity to have perhaps the best opportunity for them.

Pam Brown of Newton said she appreciated Mr. Swasey's earlier questioning about the purpose of what a public school is. She added that increasing programs means increasing taxes. These rising costs can lead to the problems we are trying to solve and reminded the Committee there are effects to these rising costs. Ms. Brown is also concerned over the young age children are entering school and feels they should be staying home longer.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Ms. Gluck presented an update on the School Board meeting. She said they voted to approve the CIP program and highlighted some actions the School Board took at their last meeting. The School Board also discussed the road to the Deliberative meeting.

Ms. Gannon asked about when the strategic planning will begin. Dr. Blake said it will be beginning this year.

Ms. Collyer thanked all the administration and team for coming in.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Swasey made a motion to approve the Budget Committee minutes from December 1, 2016 as written. Seconded by Mr. Doggett. VOTE: 7-1-0 (Faria abstained) motion carries
OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Gannon was wondering, since they have videotapes of their meetings, if they might not need the services of the recording secretary. A member of the Budget Committee could transcribe from the tapes themselves. She added they are the Budget Committee and are watching out how they spend money. She asked if that would be something they would consider maybe not for this year, but for next year. They might be able to save some money for the District rather than pay for a recording secretary.

Mr. Doggett responded by saying she was the member who fought to get a recording secretary for them. He said it is hard to take notes and participate in the meeting at the same time. Mr. Doggett stated the difficulty with transcribing from a taped recording of the meeting because the camera is not always pointed on the person who is speaking, therefore, it can be hard to identify who is talking.

Ms. Gannon said the minutes they just approved were transcribed from the tape. Ms. Collyer asked if she had a motion, and Ms. Gannon declined.

There was no further discussion.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Ms. Collyer stated if they don't have any questions on the Grounds and Maintenance proposed budget scheduled next week for review, they could spend next week reviewing their questions and answers and think about coming up with their individual proposals for December 22nd. Ms. Collyer said there are still some questions "in progress" and some we don't have information on yet.

Ms. Faria wants to discuss proposals next week because we might want to come to a conclusion on December 22nd.

Ms. Gannon asked if the Budget Committee could get an electronic copy of the CIP that was approved last night by the School Board. Dr. Blake said he could do that.

Ms. Gannon asked if Dr. Blake had any information on whether the contracts have been ratified yet. Dr. Blake said he has not received official word on that yet.

ADJOURNMENT

**Ms. Faria made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Doggett. VOTE: 8-0
Motion carries**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Minutes submitted by,
Linda Mahoney