

**Sanborn Regional School District Budget Committee Meeting
January 7, 2014
Approved Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order: 7:36 PM

Attendance:

Members:	Barry Gluck, Chair	Tom Gasse, Vice Chair
	Beth Ann Scanlon	Paul Brisson
	Roger Clark	Patty Stephan
	Allen Felisberto	Nancy Ross, School Board Rep.

Administration: Carol Coppola, Business Administrator

Public Comment:

Ms. Stacy Barnett Frias: Kingston Children’s Center employee/Newton Resident

Ms. Frias shared with the BudCom that she had just learned of BudCom’s existence that afternoon and queried BudCom regarding the District’s proposed plan to X identified 3- and 4-year-old residents in the district at both Bakie and Memorial Elementary Schools (see the Administration’s proposal for further details). BudCom clarified that this plan is not aimed at all 3 and 4 year olds, but only for those identified by the district. Ms. Frias said that KCC also represents an alternative for parents with work or scheduling issues for whom public schooling at a young age is not a viable option.

Ms. Coppola verified that we are already supporting three year olds outside the district and the proposal from the administration would enable us to bring those students into the district.

Ms. Frias explained that when she voted in the last election, it was not clear to her that she was voting for public kindergarten and that, had she realized that, she would have been certain that she was doing just that but the ballot, as presented, was not clear to her. Ms. Ross explained that what is on the ballot is just a number. The language on the ballot is tightly controlled by law and the District can present only a number. It is then up to the district to manage to that number and rearrange priorities to work with the budget approved by the voters.

Mr. Gluck explained that the Deliberative Session is scheduled for 2/5 and, at that time, the public has the right to amend the budget number from the floor.

Finally, Ms. Frias further commented that KCC looks forward to continuing to work with the District as a partner and that she plans to share information about the public presentation and the deliberative session with her peer teachers at the center. BudCom members thanked her for her feedback and encouraged her to attend future meetings.

Committee Comment: None.

Prior Meeting Minutes:

- **Motion:** Accept the minutes from the 12/19/2013 meeting as amended (Mrs. Ross)
 - **Second:** Ms. Stephan
 - **Discussion:** none
 - **Vote: 8-0** Motion passed

School Board Report (Ms. Ross):

- No report

Old Business:

Budget Discussion and Deliberations

- *Mr. Felisberto:* Are we doing an Alert Now for the Public Hearing and Deliberative Sessions? We had discussed this, but there was no action item. **Mr. Gluck to follow up with Dr. Blake.**
- *Mr. Clark:* Was contacted by Katie Aveni, owner of Newton Learning Center regarding proposed program for 3 and 4 year olds. Mr. Clark explained the program to Ms. Aveni. Mr. Clark also reported that he was contacted by the Kingston and Newton selectmen regarding planned increases each town's portion of next year's tax rates. At present, he said that Kingston has negotiated <1% increase in the town's budget and Newton is looking at ~2.5%.
- *Ms. Scanlon:* Expressed concern that we may unintentionally spread misinformation.
- *Mr. Gluck:* Reminded us all that we must be sure to be strictly factual in all discussions with voters and that we represent a committee. He also reminded us that we do not approve or disapprove any specific line items and that we just vote on a number.
- *Mr. Felisberto:* How many 3 and 4 year olds are projected to be part of this program?
- *Ms. Coppola:* That number is not called out in the budget, but there is not a projected increase. Instead, we are splitting the 21 three-year-old students and locating them in the elementary school in the town in which they reside. Previously, two of these students were placed privately because we did not have space for them in the Bakie program.
- *Mr. Felisberto:* Was sworn in this afternoon, so he no longer has to abstain from voting.
- *Ms. Scanlon:* Queried what the new Pinnacle software will include and asked about the separate scheduling software.
- *Ms. Coppola:* Explained that Pinnacle has scheduling and grades, but the separate software is required for scheduling of Advisory sessions, which is a feature that none of major packages features, requiring the separate purchase.

Vote on the 2014-2015 Budget

- **Motion:** To vote on the Administration's budget as submitted: \$34,327,210. (Ms. Ross)
 - **Second:** Mr. Gasse
 - **Discussion:**
 - *Mr. Gluck:* Seems to be very little fat. Impact is dramatic. I cannot vote in favor of this number. It is too much to swallow.
 - *Ms. Ross:* Happy to see the prioritized list from the administration. Should not go any further.
 - *Ms. Stephan:* Perhaps start with low priority items and eliminate from the bottom up?
 - *Mr. Felisberto:* If we nitpick it comes across as a statement. Should we arbitrarily reduce the budget by a percentage and let the School Board work it out?
 - *Mr. Gluck:* This is always a struggle: a percentage cut or a dollar amount reduction? Disagrees with Mr. Felisberto regarding the past. When there were big cuts by the BudCom which would have a substantial impact, BudCom was asked how we arrived at that number as a check and balance.
 - *Mr. Brisson:* It's not for me to go through each line item and discern what we should advocate for. I will vote for a dollar amount and let the Administration and

School Board determine how best to spend it. Have to keep the taxpayers in mind. Also looking at the impact for subsequent years because we have additional monetary commitments.

- **Vote: 0-8** (motion defeated)
- **Motion:** To vote on the Mr. Gluck’s proposed budget recommendation: \$34,233,190. (Mr. Gluck)
 - **Second:** Ms. Ross
 - **Discussion:**
 - *Mr. Gluck:* Arrived at this number by cutting the following:

Capital Improvements Projects Approved by the School Board	
SAU/Seminary Campus Headmaster House Removal	\$ 25,000
SAU/Seminary Campus Headmaster Barn Removal	\$ 25,000
High Priority Items	
Cafeteria Chairs - High School	\$ 5,281
Medium Priority Items	
Storage Container - High School	\$ 2,500
JV Golf, Bowling, Bass Fishing - High School	\$ 11,898
Low Priority Items	
New Budget Requests: Video Recording	\$ 24,341
TOTAL	\$ 94,020

- *Ms. Coppola:* Reminder: we must complete a worksheet that shows what, specifically, we are recommending for cuts.
 - **Vote: 3-5** (motion defeated)
- **Motion:** To vote on the Ms. Ross’ proposed budget recommendation: \$34,215,971. (Ms. Ross)
 - **Second:** Ms. Stephan
 - **Discussion:**
 - *Ms. Ross:* Arrived at this number by cutting the following:

Capital Improvements Projects Approved by the School Board	
SAU/Seminary Campus Headmaster House Removal	\$ 25,000
SAU/Seminary Campus Headmaster Barn Removal	\$ 25,000
Medium Priority Items	
Storage Container - High School	\$ 2,500
JV Golf, Bowling, Bass Fishing - High School	\$ 11,898
Low Priority Items	
Textbooks	\$ 22,500
New Budget Requests: Video Recording	\$ 24,341
TOTAL	\$ 111,239

- *Mr. Gluck:* Reminder: the number we recommend can be adjusted either up or down by the public at the Deliberative Session.
 - *Mr. Felisberto:* Enrollments are up and down. Currently projected to go down. Perhaps these numbers are so small that the default budget can absorb them?
 - **Vote: 4-4** (motion defeated)
- **Motion:** To vote on the Ms. Brisson’s proposed budget recommendation: \$33,199,985, which is the default budget. (Mr. Brisson)
 - **Second:** Mr. Clark

- **Discussion:**
- *Mr. Brisson:* The default budget represents \$1,127,225 less than Administration’s proposed budget and \$1,061,590 more than last year’s request. Discussed per-student cost based on dividing the proposed amounts by the number of students in the district (1818), which is not the state’s method of calculating this figure, but it is in the realm of \$18,800 per student.
- **Vote: 3-5** (motion defeated)
- **Motion:** To vote on the Ms. Stephan proposed budget recommendation: \$34,158,126. (Ms. Stephan)
 - **Second:** Ms. Ross
 - **Discussion:**
 - *Ms. Stephan:* Arrived at this number by cutting the following:

Capital Improvements Projects Approved by the School Board	
SAU/Seminary Campus Headmaster House Removal	\$ 25,000
SAU/Seminary Campus Headmaster Barn Removal	\$ 25,000
Medium Priority Items	
Storage Container - High School	\$ 2,500
JV Golf, Bowling, Bass Fishing - High School	\$ 11,898
Low Priority Items	
Textbooks	\$ 22,500
SST Tuition	\$ 16,360
New Budget Requests: Teacher Stipends - District Wide	\$ 24,560
New Budget Requests: Video Recording	\$ 24,341
New Budget Requests: Music Enrichment	\$ 3,000
New Budget Requests: Softball B Teams and Golf	\$ 13,923
TOTAL	\$ 169,082

- **Vote: 5-3** (motion passed)

New Business: None.

Public Comment: None.

Committee Comment: None.

Schedule of Future Meetings:

- 01/09/14: Budget Committee Meeting (assemble presentation)

- Motion:** To Adjourn (Mrs. Scanlon)
- Second: Ms. Stephan
 - Vote: 8-0
 - Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Stephan, Budget Committee Secretary