

# Sanborn Regional School District Budget Committee Meeting

November 24, 2014

## *Approved* Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order:** 7:35 PM

**Attendance:**

<b>Bud Com Members:</b>	Barry Gluck, Chair	Allen Felisberto, Vice Chair
	Beth Ann Scanlon	Cheryl Gannon
	Roger Clark	Patty Stephan, Secretary
	Jim Doggett	Nancy Ross, School Board Rep.

**Administration:** Carol Coppola, Business Administrator  
Brian Blake, Superintendent

**Public Comment:** none

**Committee Comment:** none

**Prior Meeting Minutes:** Reviewed and amended.

- Motion: to accept the November 13, 2014 Budget Committee meeting minutes as amended (Ms. Ross)
  - Second: Mr. Doggett
  - Vote: 8-0 (motion carries)
- Motion: to accept the November 19, 2014 joint School Board/Budget Committee meeting minutes as amended (Mr. Felisberto)
  - Second: Mr. Doggett
  - Vote: 8-0 (motion carries)

**School Board Report (Ms. Ross):** no meeting since the joint meeting

**Old Business:**

- Status of search for Bud Com Recording Secretary (Dr. Blake): no one has expressed interest outside of an existing employee who would be moved into an overtime situation were she to take the position, which is not possible. Discussion of where the position is posted.
- Community outreach initiative updates: Ms. Stephan was able to get the long version press release to the school email blasts. When will this week's go out with the holiday?
  - Need to add the link to the survey to the press release information. How long to leave the survey open? Want to be sure folks do not put it off. Public hearing is January 14.
  - Should we put a deadline on the survey and/or can we add a note to the survey that the sooner we receive feedback, the more likely we will be able to take action on it.
  - We need to be sure to meet whatever commitment we make in The Carriage Towne News and so on.

**New Business:**

Budget Committee Timeline discussion: Mr. Gluck recommends Thursday nights (12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 1/8, 1/14 Public Hearing). Target 12/18 as the evening to take a vote. Will give us this meeting and the 12/4 for information gathering and questions. 12/11 would be the beginning of deliberations with a goal of voting a number on 12/18. 1/8 would be preparing for presentation.

- Ms. Gannon brought up that Ms. Stephan wanted to make some updates to the presentation last year
- Bud Com agreed that Ms. Stephan and Ms. Gannon will work from last years' presentation and make some updates and changes per the recommendations Ms. Stephan had made for last years'

presentation in an effort to make the presentation more voter-friendly and more the work of the Budget Committee. Ms. Stephan and Ms. Gannon will work together during the Christmas break.

- Mr. Felisberto asked when the School Board will have a budget recommendation. Ms. Ross believes it will be after January 7, as likely the Board will not be ready to vote on a number by 12/7. We are not sure which body will arrive at a number first: Bud Com or School Board.
- Ms. Gannon: Should we meet 12/16 instead of 12/18, which would enable the School Board to have a number if Bud Com has one by then? Plan: We will stick with 12/18 for now but we can move the meeting at a later date if that works out. Mr. Doggett is unavailable that day. Mondays are not possible for Mr. Gluck. School board meets at 7, FYI.
- Given the fact that we are voting on a budget on 12/18, we should take into account the Survey feedback into the presentation.
- Dr. Blake: Remember what the survey is about. It is aimed at finding how people get their information.
- Ms. Stephan will move the contact information for questions and concerns to the top of the press release as well as the adding the survey link.

#### Discussion of budget-related questions submitted by BudCom members

- Mr. Gluck: District goals question was posed because the district used goals-based budgeting. We want to be sure we are seeing the forest AND the trees. Are the dollars we are spending accomplishing what we really want to accomplish? Mr. Gluck understands that the questions may not have direct answers, and that's OK. We must be aware of taxpayers ability to pay as well as the district is spending in a way that helps us achieve what we want to achieve.
- Mr. Gluck: Regarding question 1, can we get some dollar detail when there is an increased line item in which sub-items are a higher percentage? Ms. Gannon: Perhaps we can just ask the question as opposed to having Ms. Coppola go through the entire book again looking for these scenarios.
- Dr. Blake, regarding question 2: discussed Lucy Calkins and NWEA scores and how students are performing, which is above norms. We have been using NWEA for 10 years. It is not a state assessment and there are no state scores. It is based on national norms. Not every district in NH takes it. We pay for it. We do not know if other districts take it and what their scores may be.
- Questions 7 and 9 re: Honors contract: goal is to do a better job meeting the needs of all learners. Tied to a depth of knowledge. From budget standpoint, honors contract is more cost effective. Ms. Gannon: same teacher in the same classroom may have different work? Dr. Blake: Those students have more in-depth work with time carved out to meet with teacher to cover that separate work. Mr. Felisberto: has not been able to find students and parents who are happy with the honors contract program. He philosophically disagrees with the program as it is because he believes the students will not be prepared for college. Feels the belief is that there is not sufficient budget for honors sections for students. Ms. Gannon: How is this a budget question? Mr. Gluck: Freshman and Sophomore-level honors classes have traditional classes and higher-level students can choose to sign an honors contract, while being in the same class as everyone else, enables them to once or twice a week have a special block in which they would meet with the teacher to get additional honors-level work. Mr. Gluck's opinion: We are not hiring enough teachers to support full honors classes. Believes it is a budget-driven situation. Has spoken with students and parents and there are concerns. Ms. Ross: This has been done in the district before. It can work and it has in the past as the teachers are of sufficiently high caliber. Dr. Blake: What does it mean to be in an honors class? Mr. Gluck: High-level achievers are in an environment in which they can, comfortably, have discussions at that high level in class. Dr. Blake: Does not believe we can solve this in the confines of a Bud Com discussion. Mr. Clark: Has heard from (older) folks that they voted for the smaller budget because why should we spend money on the younger grades when the concentration should be on the higher grades?
- Mr. Gluck: Chart on page 20: Can we get the actual numbers? Dr. Blake: They are on the DOE web site. They are easily obtained.
- Mr. Gluck: page 23, requested clarification on the costs of the leases versus the savings versus the grant money for the energy projects at Memorial School
- Ron Brickett is the district treasurer and has been since 1992.

- How many COWs are in each school currently? There are two for the middle school, one at Bakie, and one at Memorial in the budget request (\$25K each). The COWs are used for everything: assessment, daily work. They are required because there is not a laptop for each student in each classroom.
- Mr. Felisberto questioned what is the cost of the iPads is. Are they purchased? Leased? Dr. Blake said we purchase and add AppleCare plan to each. Apple gives a small break to educational institutions when purchasing in bulk, but not much.
- Page 56: Dr. Blake: Adequacy aid is tied to student enrollment. DOE Estimate is for a 20K decline. See DOE website (data and documents tab) for explanatory information, per Dr. Blake. State has elaborate formula. Not sure what, if any, new legislature will have on the formula.
- Pg. 59: Memorial School Preschool Program: Currently all 3 year olds are at Bakie. State mandate that we pay for their education whether they are in our program in our building or not. We pay for education and transportation. Identified students may be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement, as well. We have no way of knowing or predicting. They are identified by outside agencies. Est. enrollment is 12 students. The cost is \$130 for 3 year olds for 3 half-days and \$200 per month for 4 year olds for four half-days. Can we get information regarding how many students are being placed outside? What is the current capacity? There is one classroom for preschool at Bakie. There is one preschool teacher at Memorial (1/2 time) and one at Bakie. Discussed breakdown of the two paraprofessionals and a FT teacher.
- If district hires FT Business Administrator: Currently an ~3/4-time contract position with no benefits. If hired, would be full time. Salary would be \$118K with \$40,447 in benefits.
- Cost associated with additional two buses: ~\$75K. Ms. Gannon: how many events needed to be canceled due to the lack of buses last year? Bus shortage has been ongoing for the past five years. Contract with First Student is expiring this year. Have we ever owned buses? Have in the past and had our own drivers. Buses are currently leased and have our names on them.
- Page 83: Utility cost for Transportation is for diesel fuel, is staying the same, and includes the two spare buses.
- What is happening with the Charter School? No revenue with the school leaving at the end of the school year in June. They are moving to the Old Grace Capital Church. The lease revenue was \$126K. We expect to save \$60,548 in fuel oil and \$6,000 in electricity.

Mr. Gluck: When is a reasonable time to get the questions to Dr. Blake? Get questions to Barry by Sunday night. He will get to Dr. Blake by Monday.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Committee Comment:**

Ms. Ross: Nicely done tonight, Mr. Gluck.

Mr. Felisberto: Has heard feedback from parents and has suggested that they be submitted directly to Mr. Gluck. If someone has a question, we should suggest that they submit their question in writing so we can respond appropriately and completely.

Ms. Gannon: We have filmed tonight's meeting. Where will it be posted and where can the public find it. There will be a link on the Budget Committee web page for the video.

Ms. Gannon: Thank you very much to the administration and Ms. Coppola for all the work on the amazing budget book!

Mr. Felisberto: What is happening with the Seminary building? Dr. Blake: Ad hoc committee has entered into an agreement with Mr. Choate who will advise on what can be done with the property in its entirety.

Ms. Scanlon: The presentation by the administration was fantastic. The superintendent and leadership team is wonderful and talented, well respected. Fantastic job, Ms. Coppola.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

**Schedule of Future Meetings:**

- Thursday, December 4 (School Board Room, 7:30 PM)

- Thursday, December 11 (School Board Room, 7:30 PM)
- Thursday, December 18 (School Board Room, 7:30 PM)
- Thursday, January 8 (School Board Room, 7:30 PM)
- January 14 Public Hearing (Sanborn Regional High School Auditorium, 7:00 PM)

**Motion:** To Adjourn (Mr. Doggett)

- Second: Ms. Ross
- Vote: 8-0
- Meeting Adjourned at 9:38 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Stephan, Budget Committee Secretary