

Sanborn Regional School District
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
Via Remote Connection
December 17th, 2020

Zoom Meeting ID # 93850138930/261914
www.youtube.com/c/srsdmeeting videos

Present:

Budget Committee:

Chair	Jim McCarthy	Newton
	Annie Collyer	Newton
	Christine Kuzmitski	Newton
V Chair	Moira Bashaw	Kingston
	Vanessa Matias	Kingston
	Rick Edelman	Kingston
	Mary Cyr	Member- at- Large
	Tammy Mahoney	School Board Representative

School Administrator:

Mathew Angell, Business Administrator

Excused Absent: Rick Edelman

Tardy: Mary Cyr – Joined meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Call to Order: 7:02 p.m., Jim McCarthy, Committee Chair, **Reads the Check List** to ensure meetings are compliant with the Right to Know law during a state of emergency (as declared by the Governor), in accordance with the Covid 19 pandemic.

Roll Call:

Mat Angel James McCarthy Tammy Mahoney Moira Bashaw Christine Kuzmitski
Annie Collyer Vanessa Matias

All participants have declared: they are alone, within a room in their home.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: of December 10th, 2020, Discussion ensues regarding the composition of minutes. Request of Committee Guidelines to be sent to the committee.

Mary Cyr – Answers Roll Call – home, alone in room.

Motion: To Accept Minutes of December 10, 2020 - A. Collyer /T. Mahoney Seconded - VOTE = PASSED, UNANIMOUS

School Board Report from School Board Representative – Tammy Mahoney –The School Board met last night, a vote on the Budget Committee number was PASSED. The budget number presented was thirty-five million, five hundred twenty-five thousand, forty-one dollars and ninety-four cents

(\$35,525,041.94). The School Board also voted in favor of ratifying these professional staff contracts and the administrative staff contracts.

A. Collyer – Could you give us a broad brush of those contracts please?

T. Mahoney – The impact on the warrants of the professional staff contract, it is a three-year contract. The administrators have a four-year contract. The professional staff, impact on the warrant; first year is four hundred fifty-nine thousand, one hundred fifty-five dollars (\$459,155). The second year is, five hundred thirty-six thousand, three hundred forty dollars (\$536,340). The third year, five hundred thirty-five thousand, eight hundred four dollars (\$535,804).

A. Collyer – Could you tell us how you get to this number?

M. Angell - The numbers are based upon a census of the people within the bargaining group and all the open positions. We put in an average salary and health insurance across the district. We calculate the tax and the employee benefits.

A. Collyer - What are the percentage of the increases? Also, what else is going on with the administrators?

M. Angell – Teacher’s contract, the first year was one and a half percent (1.5%). The second year was two percent (2%), the third year was three percent (3%). The amount of the wages and benefits was four hundred and fifty-nine thousand, one hundred fifty-five dollars (\$459,155), first year. Five hundred thirty-six thousand, three hundred forty dollars (\$536,340.) the second year and five hundred thirty-five thousand, eight hundred four dollars (535,804) the third year. The tax impact to Kingston for the first year was thirty cents (\$.30), this was determined prior to the tax rate being set. Newton was a forty cent (\$.40) increase. I believe the tax rate for Newton will be going down because of the recent evaluation.

The administrators, on an annual basis, was one- and one-half percent (1.5%), the next three years went to two-point seven five percent (2.75%), increase each year.

The administrators do not receive a step-in grade increase such as the teachers, so the amount negotiated, is it. They reached a cap on their health insurance cost, so the first year it could not increase more than four percent (4%), the second-year six percent (6%) and the following two years after that, it is a six percent cap (6%).

The total amount of wages and benefits for the first year was twenty-six thousand, eight hundred twenty-nine dollars (\$26,829). The second year was forty-seven thousand, eight hundred eleven dollars (\$47,811). The third year was forty-eight thousand, eight hundred ninety-four dollars (\$48,894). The fourth year was, forty-nine thousand nine hundred, ninety-seven dollars (\$49,997).

The tax impact to both Kingston and Newton for the first year is just two cents (\$.02).

A. Collyer – These have been ratified by the union?

T. Mahoney – They were ratified by union before it came to us.

M. Cyr – Passed unanimously, or what the vote was?

T. Mahoney – I have no notes, but I believe unanimous.

A. Collyer – At what point do you want to bring this to a vote to the Budget Committee for a vote on the warrant article? I would like to see a vote tonight; I would like to send a message to them on how much they are appreciated.

J. McCarthy – Is that something you would like to do this evening or wait until January 7th?

V. Matias – I support this but is this but do we receive further information?

J. McCarthy – This is the first finance information from Tammy and Matt on what was approved. Does anyone else feel they need more than these numbers to go forward this evening?

M. Cyr – In the past it was to approve the dollar amount only. I would like to see more detail personally.

C. Kuzmitski – I stand behind Annie and trust her judgment.

V. Matias – I’m ok with voting on it but would like to have something formally presented to us.

A. Collyer – With these numbers we are looking at a four hundred, twenty-five thousand (\$425,000). decrease in taxes next year. With the combination of the budget and two contracts, I was expecting

something in that range. That is what it typically is. If there were a deliberative session, suggesting raising the budget, I would be rethinking my support of the teacher contract. We do not get to change any of the terms or conditions. The only thing we do is endorse this number, which we think is reasonable for the communities to be able to support and pay our teachers, and supports our district.

J. McCarthy – I was just startled by having a vote on it tonight.

A. Collyer – Committee’s call, I just think it would be a great message to send out to the community.

J. McCarthy – Can you provide more details by January 7th?

M. Angell – The only details I can provide, are the details I gave you tonight. I can provide this to the committee via e-mail. For negotiating terms, you should contact the superintendent.

V. Matias – Has this information been brought to us in the past?

M. Cyr – I believe the only time we have seen them in the past was after they were ratified by the voters. After that, we had high level details.

J. McCarthy – Last year, we had an extended time between when the contracts were voted on and approved by the school board and our hearing of it; there was more time to absorb the information.

A. Collyer – As a compromise; could we have a straw vote to see who looks favorably towards these and hold off making a formal vote until maybe after the public hearing?

Straw Vote:

A. Collyer – yes – **J. McCarthy** – yes – **T. Mahoney** – yes – **M. Bashaw** – yes - **C. Kuzmitski** – yes -

M. Cyr – yes - **V. Matias** - yes - UNANIMOUS; we are in favor of it, pending details.

A. Collyer – Matt, we are going to need more accurate tax impact for Newton

M. Angell – When the written warrants come out, we will have a more accurate tax impact. At the public hearing the information will be available.

Discuss School Board decision regarding budget proposed by Budget Committee.

That was passed by the School Board, (5-1) with one opposed, Mr. Heath was a nay.

Continue preparation of presentation for public hearing in January

J. McCarthy – A. Collyer assisted me with preparation of this presentation.

Committee discusses the color scale and format of the slides presented. Committee decides to go through the slides for comment and suggestions. The following slides were discussed:

Slide 2 - Bullet insert suggested

Slide 3 - Change dates

Slide 4 - Discussion of the content of topics w/new math curriculum

Slide 5 – Correction, this was an increase in to the budget of \$20k, district accreditation/neg to positive.

Slide 8 - The letter “A” is for actual & “B” for budget. Insert actual and budget in the header.

Slide 9, 10 and 11- Eliminate - Subtotal is a running subtotal, found to be confusing. Insert line item for balance of figures. We should consider changing to 5 or 6 broad areas. One slide with major categories, to simplify and condense.

Slide 12 – Change the 772,500, to indicated thousand. Super busy at the bottom of slide. Have one slide to describe the first three teacher changes. Title: Subject of Major Teaching Positions. This would eliminate the bottom section

Slide 13 - Can we change the Para professionals to special ed. In order for it to flow, the total should reflect the previous number. Superintendent recommendation, put in a third column. Insert a line item that says all other changes. This slide needs to be worked for clarity.

Slide 14 – The last CBA that did not pass? Annie will send this information to J. McCarthy.

Slide 15 – The very last line, maybe that should be the header rather than the “RIF” acronym.

Slide 16 – It was strongly suggesting this slide be included to show the availability of money. Shows the budget covers all the needs with a safety net. Objection of the header is voiced, eliminating the header and

leave just the column titles. Question on whether this slide reflects the purpose of showing that the administration can hire as needed. Perhaps breaking this slide into two, one reserve and accounts another tax credit. Contingency fund will be stricken from the slide.

Slide 17 – This slide is the unexpended funds that was covid related. A one-time return of funds to the tax payer. This is to explain this is not expected to happen again. Clarification with numbers will be addressed.

Slide 19- This will be reformatted. Rename the slide 2.5 Million annual Bond Contract for the(first line) of the slide. Clarify the word “both”.

Slide 20 – Insert the current year to slide. Rename - Budget funding 2021-2022

Slide 22 – New staff contract approvals needed in 2021. Change “falling student” to “declining” student. Get rid of “quality education”? Let’s think about it. How about we remove “quality education” and say; “intervention program fully funded” and then make another bullet; “meets all needs and requirements”.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 7, 2021 –7 PM High School Library

- **Approve minutes for 12/17/2020**
- **Continue preparation of presentation for public hearing.**

Adjourn: 9:38 p.m. MOTION to adjourn: A. Collyer / M. Cyr. Seconded

Judith Schaefer
Recording Secretary