

Sunapee School District  
Budget Committee Meeting

SMHS Media Center

December 4, 2013

Call to Order:

Shaun Carroll called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Shaun Carroll, Chair

Kim Denney, Vice Chair - Absent

Paul Skarin – 6:04PM

Mike Ripley

Brian Garland

BAC Members:

John Augustine – 6:06PM

Spec Bowers

Ken Meyers

Veronica Hastings

Others Present:

Russell Holden, Superintendent

Kelly Wessells, Business Administrator

Jodi Bergen, SCES Principal

Sean Moynihan, SMHS Principal

Terra Geer, Director of Pupil Services

Wayne Palmer, Director of Facilities

Kate O'Connor, Board Secretary

Budget Overview:

Russell explained that a PowerPoint would be shown and that a revised budget overview had been handed out. Each of the principals will give a brief overview of their budget as well as pupil services.

Jodi Bergen explained that SCES has an overall decrease in the budget which was done by tightening up accounts. Some line items were moved to connect account lines. There were mainly minor decreases in the supply lines.

Ken Meyer asked what the difference is between the last budget and the revised budget handed out. Russell Holden stated the descriptions have been revised.

Sean Moynihan explained that there has been a decrease in supplies and textbooks. There has been a major decrease in personnel by reducing a full-time Assistant Principal to a part-time position which they will combine with a part-time teaching position. They are able to do this due to decreasing enrollment.

Terra Geer explained that the special education budget has gone up considerably, \$326,000, due to out of district students moving in. Currently, there are eight out of district students at five different schools/programs. The administration is reviewing the impact bringing some of these students back may cause to related services and starting a new program. All districts around the State seem to be having this same discussion about programming at the school level and whether it is worth it. Sunapee's special education population is 13% while the State average is 15%. There are no special education tuition students; all the families live in Sunapee. By reconfiguring personnel at SCES they were able to decrease the special education portion there a little.

Sean stated that the number of out of district students fluctuates between 5-10 students.

Members of the Budget Advisory Committee asked if combining our special education students with another district would be an option. Terra explained that it has been done in other districts, but not well. They are looking at creating their own program, but there is a wide array of ages and disabilities, plus if a student moves there might not be a need for a program that has been created.

Terra explained that they are getting back as much as possible from Catastrophic Aid and Medicaid. She does not believe Sunapee will get more back from Cat Aid due to there only being so much that the State can give out.

Russell explained that there is currently \$286,000 in the Special Education Capital Reserve account. They will have to use some of this money to cover costs from this year, leaving around \$130,000 in the account. They are asking for a warrant article for \$25,000 to be added back into the account for next year. The Board doesn't want to drain the account in case another student moves in.

Spec Bowers noted that there are misspellings in the Budget books. Russell will correct.

Russell reviewed the Board goals with the BAC members and Board.

Other increases and decreases affecting next year's budget:

1. Increase – Special Education (OOD), \$326,000
2. Increase – Salary/Benefits, \$114,000
3. Increase – Health Insurance, \$15,000
4. Increase – Retirement, \$22,000
5. Decrease – SAU Staff, -\$35,000
6. Decrease – Special Education Teacher, -\$31,000
7. Decrease – SMHS Administration, -\$36,000
8. Decrease – Remove new bus, -\$74,000

The total amount in decreases is \$175,000. Russell stated that all bus purchases have been pushed back for one year. For a small district like Sunapee It is better to own their busses than go through a management company.

SCES enrollment is down by five students pre-k through fifth grade. SMHS is up by eight students to make the District up overall by three students. Russell explained the formula to get the per pupil cost. When figuring out the cost the State largely leaves out transportation costs. If you increase student enrollment the per pupil cost goes down.

The warrant articles were reviewed as follows:

1. To choose a moderator, clerk and treasurer
2. To hear reports of agents
3. Default budget
4. \$25,000 for Special Education Reserve account
5. \$25,000 in SCES Capital Reserve account
6. \$98,195 for SMHS roof
7. \$75,000 to repave SMHS parking lot
8. To appoint a deputy treasurer

Russell explained that the budget is up \$315,000 from last year. He and Terra explained what grade 13 means for Ken Meyer.

Spec Bowers asked for an explanation on why the default budget is up \$322,000, but the tax impact says \$.56. Kelly Wessells will review and get in touch with him.

The Board and BAC felt that no meeting on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> is needed. The Deliberative Session will be held on Monday, February 3, 2014 and the vote will take place on March 11, 2014.

Paul Skarin moved to adjourn the budget meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Mike Ripley seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kate O'Connor

Sunapee Board Secretary