School Board Members Present: James O’Malley, Holly Kennedy, Sean Leary and Jeana Woodbury

Budget Committee Member Present: Peter Zavorotny, Lewis Major, Joe Conroy, Lindsey Blake, Kayla Hemlow, James MacDonell, Edwin Smith, Bill Nebelski, Steve Diorio, Selectmen’s Representative, Sean Leary, School Board Representative

Excused: Tina McCosker, School Board, Megan Bassett Budget Committee

School Administration Present: Wayne Woolridge, Superintendent: Ann Freitag, Principal: Deborah Child-Trabucco, Director of Technology: Tom O’Connor, Business Administrator: Joseph Boggio

H. Kennedy called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

P. Zavorotny called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

Edwin Smith presented Bill Nebelski with a check for $300.00 from the Lions Club for the flag standards that he will build for the Town of Hinsdale.

Tom O’Connor reviewed the budget for the school district as presented $12,531,537.30 a 4.9% increase in expenses over last year.

Seventy percent of the budget is contractual obligations. The budget is in its first year of a three-year contract for the teachers and the support staff has negotiated a new contract that is not reflected in the presented budget. This will be a separate warrant article. There are no staff increases and in some areas, there are decreases reflected. The budget process begins in September with teacher request. Principals review these request and make adjustments were necessary. The administrative team then reviews the budget as a whole to offer feedback.

Questions asked:

Co-Curricular activities increases were questioned; it was explained that this was part of the teacher contract negotiations.

Discussion regarding the 5-year Technology plan, D. Trabucco reviewed the components, and the future needs of the district.

A question regarding MOCA Arts, A Freitag reviewed with the Boards the state standards that are achieved in the theatre, arts by using a certified teacher from MOCA arts. This has been in the budget for 5 years.
Music supplies increases were due to starting to bring a band back to the district.

Speech and Language increases explained. The use of an online service, Presence Learning, was explained, it is less expensive than hiring an employee. The district has positive press regarding this innovated learning tool.

Shared expenses regarding occupational therapy were explained by the district sharing personnel with another district.

Questions concerning a decrease in life and consumer science were discussed. Ann Freitag explained that there is a decreased enrollment in the chef’s class so the budget went down accordingly.

Questions concerning a line item considering a consultant that used for new teacher mentoring. Wayne Woolridge explained the advantages of the presence of the consultant.

Increases in SAU salaries were explained by the need to show that the district is committed to the after school program. This is a requirement to continue to receive government funds.

Discussion regarding the tax affects that this budget would have. It is estimated that it might be a $2.00 tax increase.

Discussion of revenues; the state is sending smaller amounts to the districts. Wayne Woolridge reviewed Senate Bill 193; Hinsdale has the opportunity to attract people to our district.

Discussion regarding economic development both boards expressed the desire to work together to achieve the goals of more business setting up in Hinsdale.

T. O’Connor reviewed the information from the bond sale that further reduced the budget from what the boards have in front of them.

Motion was made by Edwin Smith to accept the school district budget of $12,526,555.28, Seconded by Kayla Hemlow. Motion passed -10-0-0

Motion by Jeana Woodbury for the School Board to adjourn at 7:23 pm; seconded by James O’Malley. Motion passed 4-0-0

Edwin Smith reviewed with the Board a letter he received concerning the already TA Police Department budget and the data retention with the Internet Crime Task Force. Discussion on this matter will continue at the January 17, meeting with the Selectmen. Steve Diorio will notify the Chief that there will be further discussion. Ann Diorio will scan letter to Peter to send to the rest of the Budget Committee.

Motion by James MacDonell for the Budget Committee to adjourn at 7:28 pm; seconded by Kayla Hemlow. Motion passed 10-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Diorio