

**Budget Committee Meeting  
Hinsdale School Board Meeting  
Hinsdale Budget Committee  
Joint Meeting  
Hinsdale School District SAU Conference Room  
January 6, 2021  
6:00 PM**

Board Members Present: James O'Malley

S. Leary remote attendee from his residence.

H. Kennedy remote attendee from her residence.

J. Killee remote attendee from her residence.

K. Hemlow remote attendee from her residence.

Administration Present: Ann Freitag, Principal; Joseph Boggio, Principal

Administration attending remotely: Tom OConnor, Business Administrator; Sean Robinson, Vice Principal; Deborah Child-Trabucco, Director of Technology; Patricia Wallace, SPED Coordinator Hinsdale Elementary School

S. Leary reviewed the guidelines for holding the Zoom meeting for School Board.

S. Diorio reviewed guidelines for holding a zoom meeting for Budget Committee.

Budget Committee Member Present: Dennis Nadeau, Lisa Prince, Mike Bomba, and Ken Howe

Budget Committee attending remotely: Selectmen's Representative- Steve Diorio, School Board Representative-Holly Kennedy, Peter Zavorotny, Lindsey Blake, Edwin Smith

Not present: Bill Nebelski and Karen Johnson

S. Leary called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

D. Nadeau called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

S. Leary welcomed the Budget Committee to the meeting.

T. OConnor presented the Committee with budget information, including an overview

Key Takeaways:

The proposed budget now stands at \$13,458,291.39 (adding \$760,000 for food service and grant appropriations that would be offset by those revenues would bring the total of \$14,218,292 to the operating budget warrant article) and which represents a \$67,354.39, 0.50% increase of the year-to-year budget. The operating budget excludes any separate warrant article appropriations such as negotiated cost items for support staff increases or special articles to transfer to trust funds.

T OConnor wanted to recognize the administration for its work finding ways to cut from earlier budget drafts. The attached spreadsheet shows a total of \$226,663.67 in cuts. They represent a team effort to help the taxpayers while still providing students resources they need to succeed.

Overview of items affecting budget costs:

1. Out of district special education - the current budget was cut last budget cycle so year-to-year increases seem large until you compare the 21-22 proposed amounts with the 19-20 actuals.
2. Student transportation - only two companies bid last year. One was 16% higher and the other 65%. Obviously, the winning 16% is still a large increase and the special ed transportation reflects the difficulty of more distant placements caused by changing availability of settings in this pandemic world.
3. Health insurance guaranteed maximum rate increase was 6.7% for budget purposes. Line item changes vary by individual enrollment choices year-to-year.
4. New Hampshire retirement biennial rates increase significantly 7/1/21. Employer cost for teachers increase to 21.02% from the prior biennium's 17.8% rate. Employer cost for employees increase to 14.06% from the prior 11.17% rate.
5. Budgeted positions were reduced by 3.4 FTE based on needs and another .4 FTE was moved from the operating budget to grant funded.
6. Deferred compensation in the form of retirement payouts occurred in this budget where there happened to be none the prior year.
7. Debt interest continues to decrease as outstanding bond principal is reduced.

Dennis Nadeau went through the budget page by page, questions were asked and answered.

Edwin Smith wanted to thank Tom for his many years of service to the District as this was his last budget presentation.

Budget Committee adjourned the meeting at 7:36

### **Other Business:**

S. Leary asked A. Freitag to review the risk assessment that was done regarding the latest COVID- 19 positive case. S. Kilelee, gave an update on the protocols for basketball. Questions were asked and answered.

After Discussion the following motion was made:

**K. Hemlow- MOVED to accept the risk assessment that was presented to the Board, and to lift the suspension on the basketball season. SECONDED J. Kilelee VOTE: Roll call- J. O'Malley- yes, K. Hemlow-yes, J. Kilelee-yes, H. Kennedy- yes and S. Leary – yes. 5-0-0 MOTION PASSED**

S. Leary reviewed the timeline for the events leading up to the suspension of the basketball season. S. Leary wanted it noted that this was an administrative decision not a Board decision. No one Board member has the right to make a decision for the Board, all Board members are and should be able to express their opinions regarding matters before the Board. People jumped to blame the Board for a decision that was not made by them but was an administrative decision.

H. Kennedy wanted it noted that she had nothing to do with decision to pause basketball, she and the Board were vilified in public despite the fact they did not know about this. It was an administrative decision.

Discussion was held concerning the communications plan going forward.

**K. Hemlow MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM. SECONDED J. Killee VOTE: Roll call- J. O'Malley- yes, K. Hemlow-yes, J. Killee-yes, H. Kennedy- yes and S. Leary – yes VOTE: 5-0-0, MOTION PASSED.**

I attest that this is a true copy of the minutes:

\_\_\_\_\_ approved on \_\_\_\_\_  
Ann Marie Diorio