

**Hinsdale School Board Work Session  
SAU Conference Room  
January 10, 2023  
6:00 PM**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88049491714?pwd=V1RKc1lrQS9oRCtWbmN2Rm5udmx4UT09>

Meeting ID: 880 4949 1714

**Board Members Present:** Holly Kennedy, Sean Leary, April Anderson, and Jeana Woodbury

**Board Members Excused:** Julia Kilelee

**Administration Present:** Jodie Holmquist, Business Administrator

**Administration Attending Remotely in the SAU Office:** John Barth, Principal; Christopher Ponce, HMHS Assistant Principal; Justin Therieau, Director of Technology; Karen Thompson, Director of Teaching and Learning; and Patty Wallace, Director of Student Services

**Administration Excused:** Joe Boggio, Principal; Kim Caron, Interim Superintendent; and Sarah Tatro, Human Resources Manager

**Budget Committee Attending:** Steve Diorio, Alex Duso, Josh Green, Ken Howe, Karen Johnson, Dennis Nadeau, William Nebelski, and James McDonald

**Budget Committee Excused:** Mike Bomba and Janice Nichols

**Minutes Recorded for the School Board by:** Maria Webb, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

**Call to Order:**

H. Kennedy called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

H. Kennedy reviewed the guidelines for holding the Zoom meeting.

**Citizens' Comments:**

H. Kennedy opened citizen comments for 30 minutes.

There was one citizen attending, Marilyn Strom, an HSD Teacher. Ms. Strom had no comments or questions at this time. There were no citizens attending via Zoom.

## **Budget Planning Work Session:**

J. Holmquist shared additional handouts she prepared in response to the Budget Committee's questions, and she offered to take any further questions.

J. Holmquist noted that the grant expenses need to be included in the budget and the increase in grants may make it appear that the budget is increasing.

J. Holmquist shared that the Federal Grant revenue amount of \$3,384.00 is the amount of grant money per student.

J. Holmquist noted that we do not have the economies of scale that larger schools in the area may have.

J. Holmquist noted that differences in tax bills in recent years are due to differences in grants and that the voters approved these at the prior district meetings. She noted that she had to revise the revenues due to some items we are not getting due to grants this year, including positions that we were not able to hire this year. Food Services revenues have declined. Students are not opting for the lunches offered. This spring, we will be putting out bids for the food service program.

The budget increase for this year includes:

- Negotiated costs - Teachers
- Negotiated costs - Support Staff
- Heating oil
- Transportation
- Health Insurance
- Tuition SPED Private
- Related Services SPED Out of District
- Purchased Services Speech & Language
- HVAC Replacement

Discussed the average cost per student. J. Holmquist agreed to supply additional detail.

Student to Teacher ratio of 1:9.3. Discussed that the Teacher numbers from the NH DOE include Special Education Case Managers and Paras. J. Holmquist noted that Paras are required by the IEPs.

J. Holmquist shared the two expendable trust funds are for emergency purposes, such as if a high-need special education student moves into the district. The School Board acts as agents for these funds.

J. Holmquist shared handouts regarding Title XV, Chapter 193-E:2-a regarding Substantive Educational Content of an Adequate Education, and Chapter Ed 300 regarding minimum standards for public school approval.

J. Holmquist shared that her goal is to supply all the information that is needed to the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee noted that it would be beneficial to have time to review the information.

Discussed the maintenance expendable trust fund and the HVAC systems. Questions were noted about the process. J. Holmquist to check with the DRA on the process.

The Budget Committee asked J. Holmquist if there are other items that can be put into a warrant article, such as the HVAC systems. Asked the Board to take the \$40K out of the expendable trust fund for the HVAC. The Board agreed to review this at the January Board Meeting.

Discussed the impact of the property valuations on the town residents.

Discussed the HR budget, including travel, and the 20% being billed to the Town. Asked about the Curriculum budget. Discussed the Purchased Services District which is for Professional Development days.

Discussed the School Board and Other Salaries. H. Kennedy noted that this is for the School District Clerk and the raises for the School Board.

Discussed the HR Advertising Budget. J. Holmquist shared that recruiting is difficult and that we have already exceeded what we budgeted. Noted that it is not acceptable to exceed the budget so we want to avoid that. H. Kennedy noted that we have started using School Spring for teaching and professional positions and that will help curtail some of the expenses as we will not have to do as much local advertising.

Discussed the price of the heating oil. The Budget Committee noted that the current price is \$3.15/gallon. J. Holmquist noted that we buy an entire tank at a time to save money.

The Budget Committee requested another meeting with the School Board after their January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Tentative meeting date will be January 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

Discussed the issue of sustainability with the school budget increasing each year, with the higher property valuations. Discussed whether the summer meals had an impact on the food service revenues. J. Holmquist did not think there was an impact.

S. Diorio asked regarding whether there are efforts to recruit students from neighboring towns to raise funds via tuition. The Budget Committee felt that it could be a good revenue stream. The Budget Committee noted that they do not want to take anything away from the students or teachers. Feel it is crucial to find sources for more revenue. Challenges noted are the commute for the students and the lack of extra-curricular activities in Hinsdale.

The Budget Committee thanked J. Holmquist and the Board for all the budget detail that was provided this year.

**Other Business:**

There was no other business.

**Citizens' Comments:**

H. Kennedy asked each of those attending in the room for any comments. Ms. Strom asked about the status of the PRENDA program that was discussed on WMUR-TV.

A Budget Committee member asked about the annual district audit. J. Holmquist shared where the report can be found.

**Non-Public Session:**

There was no non-public session.

**J. Woodbury MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 pm. S. Leary SECONDED. VOTE: 4-0-0, MOTION PASSED.**

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

\_\_\_\_\_ approved on \_\_\_\_\_  
Maria A. Webb