

**Hinsdale School Board Work Session
SAU Conference Room
January 19, 2023
6:00 PM**

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 880 4949 1714

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

Board Members Excused: Holly Kennedy and Julia Kilelee

Administration Present: Kim Caron, Interim Superintendent; and Jodie Holmquist, Business Administrator

Administration Attending Remotely and also remotely from the SAU Office: John Barth, Principal; Joe Boggio, Principal; Christopher Ponce, HMHS Assistant Principal; Sarah Tatro, Human Resources Manager; Justin Therieau, Director of Technology; Karen Thompson, Director of Teaching and Learning; and Patty Wallace, Director of Student Services

Administration Excused: N/A

Budget Committee Attending: Mike Bomba, Steve Diorio, Alex Duso, Josh Green, Ken Howe, Dennis Nadeau, William Nebelski, and Janice Nichols

Budget Committee Excused: Karen Johnson and James McDonald

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

Call to Order:

S. Leary called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

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

Citizens' Comments:

S. Leary opened citizen comments for 30 minutes. The one citizen attending in the room, Ms. Marilyn Strom, an HSD Teacher, had no comments or questions at this time.

There were no citizens attending remotely.

Budget Planning Work Session:

S. Leary followed up on questions from the prior meeting. Reviewed items that were being taken out of the budget. Noted that we took out the furniture replacement and can submit a warrant article for that. Noted that we would like to move money from the smaller trust fund and put that into the other fund. That would require two warrant articles.

J. Holmquist reviewed information in response to questions from the prior meeting. She reviewed a handout regarding Cheshire County demographics showing comparisons with other towns in the area.

J. Holmquist reviewed the handout regarding the Staff by Location as of 1/19/2023, including 11.4 positions paid via grants. Reviewed the salary, including retirement and insurance costs, for the Superintendent. Noted that we have three teachers retiring at the end of this year and that has already been accounted for in the budget.

J. Holmquist reviewed the handout from J. Barth regarding class sizes at HMHS. Noted that we have reestablished the Tuition Committee to seek additional revenue and help us to benefit from economies of scale. Noted that we want Hinsdale to be a place of choice for other area students. S. Diorio noted that it is not just Winchester that we would want to consider, and K. Caron noted that we wholeheartedly agree with that.

Discussed the ideal class size. K. Caron noted that it is beneficial to have smaller class sizes at the elementary school and increasing class sizes in middle and high school. Noted our focus on personalized learning and that class sizes can vary from year to year. An advantage to a smaller school is being able to know our students and to address their needs.

The Budget Committee asked about the senior class size. Asked given the current staffing, how many more students can we accommodate. J. Barth noted that we can accommodate more students. The Budget Committee also asked about the impact would be of enrolling more special education students. K. Caron agreed that these are questions the Tuition Committee is going to research.

Discussed Special Education Paras. J. Holmquist noted that there are 18 at HES and 4 regular education Paras; 13 at HMHS and 2 regular education Paras. J. Holmquist explained the three-year negotiation cycle. P. Wallace shared that we have 121 students identified in Special Education with six new referrals in process.

Discussed HMHS Music classes. J. Holmquist noted that we are required to offer Music and Art as electives in HMHS. J. Holmquist shared regarding NEASC requirements to remain accredited. That includes elective classes such as music and art.

S. Diorio noted that town employees can receive merit and cost of living increases, while teachers do not. J. Holmquist noted that none of the HSD staff receive cost of living increases.

The Budget Committee requested the draft copy of the minutes from the 1/10/23 combined meeting and this meeting. The Board agreed to provide the draft minutes.

The Budget Committee thanked J. Holmquist for the handouts that she prepared. They appreciate all the information.

S. Leary expressed that he is looking for a decrease of approximately \$26K in order to vote yes for the budget.

A. Anderson provided a refrigerator for the HNMHS nurse, so \$245.38 can be removed from the budget.

Other Business:

There was no other business.

Citizens' Comments:

S. Leary asked the citizen attending in the room for any comments. Ms. Strom asked regarding the PRENDA program. J. Holmquist noted that this is for micro pods for homeschooling. Teachers have been leaving public schools to join them. We do not know the financial impact.

Non-Public Session:

There was no non-public session.

J. Woodbury MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm. A. Anderson SECONDED. VOTE: 3-0-0, MOTION PASSED.

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

Maria A. Webb

approved on _____