

**Hinsdale School Board
Joint Meeting with the Budget Committee
SAU Conference Room
December 9, 2024
5:30 PM**

Board Members Present: April Anderson, Wayne Dingman, Jr., Kendra Gardner, Kaylah Hemlow, and Marc Sprague

Administration Present: Nathan Boudreau, Facilities Director; Dr. Molly Bremner, HES Principal; and Justin Therieau, Director of Technology

Administration Attending Remotely: Jane Fortson, Business Administrator; Anna Roth, HMHS Principal; Dr. David Ryan, Superintendent; Karen Thompson, Director of Academics and Career Readiness; and Patty Wallace, Director of Student Services

Others Present: Dennis Nadeau, Ken Howe, Sean Leary, Karen Johnson, Mike Bomba, Alex Duso, William Nebelski, Dan Seymour, and Taran Benedict

Minutes Recorded by: Maria Webb, Executive Assistant

Call to Order:

A. Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Citizen's Comments:

A. Anderson opened Citizen's Comments for 30 minutes.

There were no citizens present.

Joint Meeting with the Budget Committee:

Reviewed the proposed budget with the Budget Committee. Questions were asked and answered.

Page 4 - Special Education Transportation: Discussed ways to reduce costs.

Page 6 – Facilities & Maintenance: N. Boudreau is in the process of assessing needs to determine what projects will need to be done in the future.

Page 8 – Salary & Benefits: J. Fortson shared regarding health insurance increases. There are different rates of increases, depending on which plans employees select. The Budget Committee requested a list of all employees' salaries for this year, including coaches and advisors.

Page 13 – Reading: M. Bremner shared regarding the MTSS-R Coordinator, as required to meet minimum standards.

Page 14 - Guidance Salaries: J. Fortson shared regarding K. Thompson's position.

Page 17 – HES Wages: Need to include a Grade 2 Teacher who was hired.

Page 21 – Guidance Salaries HMHS: The 1.0 FTE next year includes benefits.

Page 23 – Professional Services/Tutoring: Was expended from last year. Is for home-tutoring (regular education). There is nothing budgeted going forward.

Page 31 – Tech Wages: Discussed a plan for shared services with Winchester.

Page 38 – Buildings & Grounds Wages: The Facilities Director will be certified for a school district.

Page 39 – Charter School SPED Services: We are mandated to pay for the services.

Page 41 – Special Education Transportation: We are required to provide transportation both ways and this is specified in the IEPs.

Page 41 – Teacher Retirement: No one is retiring this year. Next year we have six potential retirees.

Page 43 – Special Education: Charter School SPED Services refers to services provided at Charter Schools and is not tuition.

Page 45 – SAU: The school does not have the SRO MOU from the Town yet, so this is an estimate.

Page 48 – Curriculum & Instruction: Reviewed the grant portions.

Page 52 – Expendable Trust Funds Income Balance: Reflect balances to date.

A. Duso noted the large increases in the Special Education budget overall and how this is causing other areas to have to make reductions. Asked for evaluation by a third party to be sure we are controlling costs as much as possible.

Dr. Ryan shared regarding increases in the number of referrals for violent students and the increase in the rehabilitative services needed. Noted staffing challenges and that we must pay higher wages to utilize outside providers.

Dr. Ryan shared that we have invited other Superintendents to collaborate with us and discuss sharing costs. There are plans for a special education audit.

Discussed school funding issues in New Hampshire. P. Wallace shared committees that she is involved with that are actively working on the issues. D. Nadeau expressed that he is open to helping in any way that he can.

A. Duso requested statistics on the numbers of special education students in our district as compared to other local districts. P. Wallace agreed to provide this information. Shared regarding the special education evaluation process.

K. Johnson asked how many students are in the ELO program. K. Thompson shared that there are 18 currently in grades 9-12. We are now bringing this to the Middle School.

Page 2 – Other Purchased Services: K. Howe asked about increases. J. Fortson noted this includes the SRO, transportation, out-of-district placements, and school psychologist services.

M. Bomba expressed the desire to see further reductions. A. Anderson noted that any further reductions would result in positions being cut. The Board hopes that Winchester high school students will come to Hinsdale. Reiterated the potential for shared services with Winchester.

D. Seymour asked regarding potential increases in teacher salaries. No information was available as negotiations are in process.

J. Fortson noted funds that were returned to the taxpayers were not all from unexpended funds. P. Wallace shared work that is done to obtain revenue through Medicaid.

D. Nadeau expressed concern with student achievement as compared to other districts. Also expressed concern with making too many reductions that may result in the need to increase the budget in the future.

Discussed bond payments. J. Fortson shared that we will no longer be paying the bond after the final payment, but then we will not be receiving building aid which we received to offset the payments.

K. Hemlow shared positive initiatives, including the ELO program. Dr. Bremner shared regarding the multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) which just began this year.

K. Johnson asked regarding Curriculum positions. It was noted that K. Thompson is working with Guidance, and that other areas of improved efficiencies are being looked at.

Discussed school funding. J. Fortson shared that once the tax rate is set, she will have more information.

Other Business:

There was no other business at this time.

Follow-up Items:

J. Fortson agreed to provide:

1. List of all employees' salaries for this year, including coaches and advisors.
2. Page 17: Add new Grade 2 Teacher who was hired this year (BA-1), plus health & dental.

P. Wallace agreed to provide the number of students on IEPs in our district as compared to other districts.

W. Dingman, Jr. MOVED to schedule a follow-up meeting with the Budget Committee, Dr. Ryan, and J. Fortson on 1/15/2025 at 6:00 PM in the SAU Conference Room. M. Sprague SECONDED. 5-0-0-MOTION PASSED.

K. Hemlow MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm. M. Sprague SECONDED. VOTE: 5-0-0, MOTION PASSED.

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

_____ approved on _____
Maria A. Webb