

**Hinsdale School Board
Joint Meeting with the Budget Committee
SAU Conference Room
January 15, 2025
6:00 PM**

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

Administration Present: Jane Fortson, Business Administrator; and Dr. David Ryan, Superintendent

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

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

Call to Order:

A. Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Citizen's Comments:

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

There were no citizens present.

Joint Meeting with the Budget Committee:

J. Fortson shared that there will be increased costs for the bus company, but we do not have the amount yet.

Discussed the costs of transportation and exploring ways to decrease costs for the next budget cycle. J. Fortson agreed to provide data on the number of students who use the buses.

W. Dingman, Jr. noted it costs \$200 a month for the electricity to plug in the buses.

Discussed the projected increase on the tax burden of \$724,419, which will decrease as we receive the fund balances.

Reviewed and discussed the proposed 2025-2026 budget:

A. Hinsdale Elementary School

Discussed Guidance salaries.

B. Hinsdale Middle High School

Discussed Guidance salaries. Discussed the numbers of Paras and Special Education Case Managers. The IEPs determine the number of Paras required.

C. Information Technology

J. Fortson shared regarding the funding we may receive back on the internet due to E-Rate.

D. Buildings and Grounds

K. Howe shared that the Town readjusted the water/sewer rate to 15%.

Regular maintenance is being done, and plans are in process for any major upgrades in the future. J. Fortson noted that the Facilities Committee is working on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

E. SAU and District Wide

It was noted that this budget cycle will be the last one that includes payment for the school.

Other Questions from the Budget Committee:

When asked, J. Fortson shared the average teacher salary at HSD is \$58,145. The New Hampshire average is \$69,432. The cost per pupil at HSD is \$25,047. New Hampshire is \$21,545. Student-Teacher ratio at HSD for K-12 is 1:15.5.

Dr. Ryan shared that this week, the Winchester School Board voted to negotiate with the Hinsdale School Board to be their anchor school. This will potentially result in revenue from tuition for 120 additional high school students in the future.

The Board outlined the process that they undertook to develop the budget, and shared examples of decreases that were made. The Board does not wish to further decrease the budget. This would negatively impact the students and involve more staffing decreases.

The Budget Committee thanked the Board for their work on the budget and recognized the amount of time administration and the Board spent on the work.

Budget Committee Action on the Budget:

After discussion, the following motions were made by the Budget Committee:

K. Howe MOVED to T/A the proposed budget for 2025-2026 at \$15,279,585.00. B. Nebelski SECONDED. VOTE: 9-0-0, MOTION PASSED.

The Budget Committee members were excused at 7:25 PM.

Board Action on the Budget:

W. Dingman, Jr. MOVED to T/A the proposed budget for 2025-2026 at \$15,279,585.00. K. Hemlow SECONDED. VOTE: 5-0-0, MOTION PASSED.

Board Action on the Winchester High School Selection Process:

K. Hemlow MOVED to enter into negotiations with the Winchester School Board to become their anchor school. K. Gardner SECONDED. VOTE: 5-0-0, MOTION PASSED.

Dr. Ryan recommended that the Board create a committee for negotiations with Winchester. Also recommends that the Tuition Exploratory Committee continues to meet and explore other options for revenue.

The Board agreed that A. Anderson and K. Hemlow will serve on the negotiations committee, with M. Sprague as an alternate.

Other Business:

There was no other business at this time.

Non-public:

W. Dingman, Jr. MOVED to go into a nonpublic session according to RSA 91 A:3 II (c) at 7:43 pm. K. Hemlow SECONDED. Roll Call: A. Anderson – yes, W. Dingman, Jr. – yes, K. Gardner – yes, K. Hemlow – yes, and M. Sprague - yes. VOTE: 5-0-0, MOTION PASSED.

W. Dingman, Jr. MOVED to reconvene the public session at 7:46 pm. K. Gardner SECONDED. Roll Call: A. Anderson – yes, W. Dingman, Jr. – yes, K. Gardner – yes, K. Hemlow – yes, and M. Sprague - yes. VOTE: 5-0-0, MOTION PASSED.

M. Sprague MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 pm. W. Dingman, Jr. SECONDED. VOTE: 5-0-0, MOTION PASSED.

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

_____ approved on _____
Maria A. Webb