

**Unapproved
Candia Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2012**

Members Present: Lynn Chivers, Carla Penfield, Todd Allen, Kim Byrd, Judith Szot, Matt Broadhead, Christine Watson, Carleton Robie, Selectmen's Representative, and Ingrid Byrd, School Representative.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02. Lynn Chivers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Legal Concerns

Matt Broadhead commented on his concern that this meeting should be posted as a supplemental public hearing, not a standard public meeting, which requires a 7 day notice, not just 24 hours. Lynn Chivers said that she had spoken to Jeanne Samms at the DRA and she said that she thought we needed 24 hour notice for this meeting, but asked Lynn to contact the attorney line at LGC (Local Government Center) to confirm. Cheryl Eastman called the LGC and they informed her that we only need 24 hours notice for this meeting. This is a legal meeting for this purpose.

School Budget

Lynn Chivers put together some figures to try and determine which lines should be reduced to meet the budget the Committee approved at the public hearing. She took the School Board budget and looked at the lines where there is a difference between the SAU budget and the School Board budget. Then she looked at the lines where there was a discrepancy between the Actual for 10-11 and the budget for this year. She ignored things like retirement and any other things that are off the actual, but we know we can't do anything about it. She also ignored the whole Special Education section because we know we can't predict what will happen with Special Ed. Then she looked at all the other lines and the difference between what was spent and what was budgeted for this year. The reductions Lynn is proposing are generally these differences, with some exceptions, as follows:

Regular Education Teacher Salaries - The difference of \$54,503 is removed. We know we have 5 teachers retiring. One is not going to be replaced at all. The other four, we are being told, will be a lot less expensive than we have now because they will be less experienced.

Kindergarten Teacher - \$68,000 reduced. This topic has been discussed at prior meetings.

20% Reading Specialist - \$12,870 reduced. This topic has been discussed at prior meetings.

Supply line – \$15,664 reduced. This is the difference between the 10-11 Actual and the proposed School Board budget.

Furniture replacement – \$6,923 reduced. This is the amount of the difference.

High School tuition – reduced by \$140,000. This is the amount of reducing the equivalent of 14 students due to over-budgeting. Todd Allen commented that in the 2010-2011 school year, there was \$250,000 to \$300,000 left over in that line, but the 2012-2013 budget that was put forth is actually \$300,000 less than that year's. Lynn Chivers stated that she had looked at a 10 year average and came up with an average of over-budgeting by 17 students. Lynn said we can change this, but the money needs to come from somewhere. Todd Allen stated that the Committee is going to do as it sees fit. He feels this whole process is a farce and said he will just keep his mouth shut through the rest of it. Lynn said he could do that, but the Committee has to come up with a line item budget somehow. Christine Watson asked if the committee is stuck with the budget number now and have to manufacture a way to back into it, or if it can be changed at this point. Lynn explained that is the number that we have to go with – we just need to figure out how to make it work. Christine Watson asked about the reduction in the Regular

Education Teacher Salaries line because she arrived at the meeting after that discussion took place. Lynn explained that is the result of 5 teachers retiring and replacing only 4 with less experienced (cheaper) teachers. School Board member Deb Lablond stated that the committee can't assume that the new teachers that will be hired will be less experienced. Lynn Chivers informed her that the Superintendent had told the Committee that they will cost less. She reminded Deb Lablond that the School Board can move the money around however they want. Deb Lablond complained to the Committee that the number they have voted is less than the total non-discretionary figures in the budget.

Additional buses – \$90,000 reduced. This is the difference.

Extended field trip stipends – \$2,800 reduced. This is the difference.

Athletic stipends – \$1,900. This is the difference.

Athletic supplies – \$1,300. This is the difference.

Psychological Diagnostic testing – \$1,162 removed, which is a partial removal of the increase. There will still be an increase of \$6,710.

Improve Instructional Services – \$4,825 reduced. This is the difference.

Media AV Supplies – \$775 reduction. This is the difference.

School Board Legal – \$7,000 reduction. Dr. Littlefield had said that he needed an increase to cover the negotiations with the paraprofessionals, but that contract has already been completed.

Maintenance Supplies – \$1,156 reduction. This is the difference.

Computer supplies – \$2,189 reduction. This is the difference.

Technology Software – \$1,316 reduction. This is the difference.

Wage Pool – \$8,609 reduction. This was for the paraprofessionals, but they now have a contract that is included in a warrant article this year.

Media Library Books - \$1,000 reduced. This is the difference.

Media Library Periodicals - \$428 reduced. This is the difference.

Media Non-Print Services - \$2847 reduced. This is the difference.

Media Additional Equipment - \$449 reduced. This is the difference.

The total reductions are \$425,716, which makes the bottom line of the Budget Committee proposed budget \$7,533,897.

Ingrid Byrd asked to keep the \$1,000 in the books line. There was general discussion about where the \$1,000 would come from. Ingrid Byrd stated that the School Board, Superintendent, and SAU can move money around as they want. Carla Penfield made a motion to accept Lynn's proposal as presented. Seconded by Judith Szot. Judith spoke about the enrollment numbers for high school. She said looking at the enrollment actual figures for this year's grades 9, 10, and 11, plus the current grade 8 leaves a lot of extra room in that line. Matt Broadhead is concerned if having a \$68,000 reduction in the Kindergarten teacher salary line includes the related benefits and taxes. Lynn Chivers clarified that the total \$68,000 will be divided between the salary, benefits, and taxes lines. Matt looked at the budget number that was approved at the December 14th meeting and contractual obligations and fixed costs. He said that he had gone down the list of extra expenditures to be taken off and found there are an extra \$43,000 in cuts beyond what he agreed to on 12/14 and he objects to that. He wanted to at that time, and still wants to, go through the budget line by line and going forward that is what the budget committee should be doing. That process would have prevented this meeting and been a more open process. Carla spoke about the process the committee took to reach the number that was approved. She believes the proposed budget has an adequate number to operating the school next year. She had a rough idea back in September that it could be level funded. She brought it up to the Superintendent when he met with Carla and Lynn in September. Christine Watson is concerned that perception is

reality. The process we have gone through, and adjusting the numbers, the perception of this body as a whole and we are losing our integrity with the public. We are supposed to be a guiding body and we are losing confidence. We could get voted out through the process in a few weeks. She thinks we should consider redoing our number and not just back into it to make it fit. We are at risk of losing our integrity as a group. Lynn called the vote to send the reduction information to the MS-27 form as discussed. Motion carried by a vote of 6 to 3. (Christine, Todd & Matt voted against.) Lynn explained the logistics of completing the MS-27 form and getting the Committee's signatures.

Todd Allen made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Christine Watson. All voted in favor.

Minutes respectfully recorded from a tape and submitted by,
Cheryl Eastman