

Approved
Candia Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2008

Attendees: Carla Penfield, Chairman; Ann Tierno; Kristine Pouliot; Kim Byrd; Allyn Chivers, Stephen Higgins; Karen Smith, School Representative. Bob St. Cyre, Ingrid Byrd, Peter Thyng, Mary Webster, Becky Sara, Sandra Alan, Melissa Madden

Absent: Judith Szot and Tom Giffen, Selectman's representative

Chairman Carla Penfield called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

School Budget Review

- Chairman C. Penfield had the committee take a few minutes to review the document from K. Smith. Roundtable discussion followed for input and questions.
- Discussion on wage pool. \$31,641 wage pool is this year's and is not allocated yet.
- The proposed wage pool is going to be the same for next year. The assistant The Budget is large and does not include the 2 large warrant articles which will accompany it.
- There is a 3% increase in the bottom line even with the decrease of 43 students from 438 to 393. With a decline in students you would expect a decline in cost at some point. K. Smith explained that although there is a decline in students, this does not necessarily mean that you lose the students all in one grade level. She also explained the SAU already made reductions in the lines regarding the decrease in number of students.
- The School Board took away all stipends for School Board members. This was another way in which they felt they could lessen the burden on the tax payers.
- The School Board also eliminated the Wage Pool. Unless you are a contracted teacher/staff member, your pay will remain the same.
- After looking at the budget sheets for the school, it was noticed that the sheets did not reflect the level funding of salaries. K. Smith will be addressing this issue with the SAU. K. Smith will have hard copies available for the BC members to review by Tuesday November 18th in the Library. She will email and confirm the time they are available to be picked up.
- Discussion was in place in how to cut the budget without affecting the education of the children. Need to know what is essential for the core education and what isn't.
- Certain line items are obligated, such as course reimbursements.
- S. Higgins pointed out that the Town did vote to give the teachers a 3% increase.
- K. Smith said that there are no new initiatives and they are postponing any new initiatives.

- There were certain line items which jumped out –such as the transportation line and those in Special Education. The Special Education Department was up by \$200,393. This is a 37% increase. K. Smith will get numbers on the change and growth of the Special Education Department.
- How many field trips and whom should be covering the cost was also in question. How many field trips do the students need to go on and do they actually affect how the students do in school. Also in question was if parents could contribute monetarily to any of the field trips.
- Look into possibly combining professional services with other districts but does not appear feasible. The head of the Maintenance Dept is shared with Auburn.
- Drivers Education was discussed and left as is. It is in fact a wash line item.
- Nurse Leavitt’s salary was discussed as she is retiring. There were questions regarding the need for Nurse Professional Services which is funded and that the substitute nurse line is zeroed out.
- Who are the Curriculum Coordinators and what do they do? K. Smith will bring that information back for the next meeting.
- Why are there stipends in the budget for the volunteers? K. Smith explained that stipends go back to the students in one way or another. There was discussion as to whether teachers or parents were running the programs.
- Minds in Motion: There were questions as to how many students were being reached. K. Smith will get back with those numbers.
- Workshops were discussed. K. Smith explained that some workshops are obligated and others are regular instructional workshops.
- With the projection of fuel going down, it was suggested there could be cuts in those areas. Since the budget does not go into place until next year and cannot predict utility costs.
- K. Smith noted that two 6th grade teachers were let go.

Review of minutes 10/29/08

K. Byrd **motioned** to accept minutes of October 29, 2008 as amended. S. Higgins **seconded**. All were in favor.

The following amendments were made:

- Page one first section first bullet correct spelling “Hallick” to “Hallock”.

- Page three, first bullet insert “Fire Department and” before emergency management.
- Page four, first paragraph line 3 replace period with comma from “\$600.000.00” to \$600,000.00”

Review of minutes 10/30/08

A. Tierno **motioned** to accept minutes of October 30, 2008 as amended. A. Chivers **seconded**. All were in favor.

The following amendments were made:

- Page one add after absent a separate line “Chairman Carla Penfield called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.”
- Page two add after last line on its own separate line “Recorded by Mary Phillips”.

Other Business

- It was the consensus of the Budget Committee members to cancel the meeting on November 18, 2008. The Budget Committee will meet again on Thursday, November 20, 2008, 7pm at the Candia Town Hall. Chairman Penfield asked the committee to come to the meeting prepared with all their questions they want to ask the SAU.

A. Tierno **motioned** to adjourn at 8:55 pm. A. Chivers **seconded**. **All were in favor.**

Taken from Kristine Pouliot’s notes and tapes

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Carrier