

**Approved
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2010**

Attendees: Chairman Ann Tierno, Allyn Chivers, Carla Penfield, Kim Byrd, Todd Allen, Erin Asselin, Craig Sandler, Selectmen's Rep. Carleton Robie, School Rep. Melissa Madden.

Absent: None

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

- Pledge of Allegiance.

Proposed School Budget

- Each BC Member expressed their opinion of the proposed budget. Although there is not a significant increase, the BC would have liked to have seen a level funded budget. Some reasons being the decline in population and the state of the economy. What is the best deal for the taxpayers, consideration for the people on fixed income. Unfortunately, the community is not engaged in the budget process. The consensus was to review the proposed budget and list questions to address the SAU on November 18th.
- School Rep. Melissa Madden was asked if the School Board keeps in mind when they look at the budget the ability of the community to pay and she told the BC the School Board keeps in mind needs of the students when preparing the budget. They also had in mind the \$300,000.00 of possible revenue from the state adequacy aid.
- It was said the issue with the adequacy aid cannot be depended on from year to year. This is not an appropriate strategy. We may or may not receive aid from the state. We also cannot rely on a reduction in student enrollment.
- Review and discuss each department budget line.

Questions for the SAU

1. What percentage is mandated?
2. What is the actual high school tuition?
3. What is a good percentage padding to have?
4. Where are we with the three-year media center plan? Rubric?
5. How can the non-contractual wage pool raises be justified?

6. ALPS (formerly Minds in Motion) budget is mostly for salary related items. Is there a 3 to 5 year plan? How will it be assessed? When will it be assessed?
7. What is the increase for the Psychologist Diagnostic Testing? Consulting Psychologist lines and supplies? How many students are receiving services?
8. Explain the Professional Development Committee and the addition of two stipends.
9. Due to the declining population and anticipated continued decline, has any consideration been given to organizational restructure?

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm. All were in favor.

Recorded by Mary Phillips