

Town of Seabrook  
Budget Committee  
December 13, 2012

Members Present: Peg Weare Dick Maguire Paul Knowles Paula Wood  
Dianna Demars Don Hawkins Michael Chase Brendan Kelly  
Jeff Brown

Meeting opens at 6:00PM

Pledge of allegiance

Introduction of school officials and others to represent school budget.

Superintendent Bob Sullivan gives an overview with of the school budget speaking of reductions.

Review of the summary packet provided. J Brown asks if the school insurance is school or LGC. Bill Hickey says that it is LGC.

J Brown asks if the new nutrition mandates have affected the budget. B Hickey says that would be a question for food service director.

Review of transfers

P Wood asks about substitute salary being over expended. Mrs. Morin-Bailey says that 4 long term subs were needed this year.

P Wood asks about the GMR. Nancy Tuttle explains that the guaranteed maximum rate is given in November to work with than the actual is given in July.

J Brown asks about the refund from the LGC. B Hickey is not sure how it works but it should be in August.

P Wood asks if any funds have been used from the Special Ed reserve fund. N Tuttle says no.

D Hawkins asks about the new equipment line in food service. N Tuttle says that it is for new cafeteria tables. P Weare asks if there are new guidelines for free and reduced lunch. N Tuttle says not that she is aware of but she will check.

P Wood asks about teacher reductions. L Shepherd says that 4 positions have been eliminated over 4 years, 3 out of 4 were not filled after a teacher retired.

N Tuttle hands out updates for the budget book.

B Kelly says that with .52 out of every dollar going to the school is there a good outlook that we will see better results from our school, it seems like we spend a lot of money with not so good results. He feels that we just teach to the government standard, nothing above and beyond.

B Sullivan says that we are always looking ahead and not just teaching to the government standards. He also says that there have been gains in education and we haven't been striving for the "low bar"

J Brown wants to make sure Seabrook students aren't just getting by, he wants to see them succeed. Is this a "getting by" budget or is this a "get where we need to be" budget. B Sullivan says that this is the best budget for these times.

P Wood asks if new insurance has been considered to make cuts. B Hickey says that some changes have been made and that there will be more discussion when contract negotiations begin.

#### Review of the Budget

Pg. 2 Reduction of 2 teachers. D Hawkins asks why with the reductions there is an addition of associates. B Hickey says that it is due to moving a person to this account from another.

J Brown asks for further explanation the affordable health care act. B Hickey says that employees working 30 or more hours will be required to have insurance and that they have a contingency plan to minimize the impact.

Discussion on changes in middle school summer program and elementary school summer program and loss of Title 1 grants.

B Hickey says that they are preparing for the possibility of all federal funds being cut. D Hawkins asks if any other accounts are affected, B Hickey says yes.

Pg. 9 With regards to the substitute salary account D Hawkins asks if there is an absenteeism issue. N Tuttle says that subs are not just used for regular teachers; they are used for special, regular teachers and aids.

Discussion on absenteeism, LTD/STD and how salary is paid.

Pg. 26 J Brown asks what this is for; N Tuttle says that it is tuition for students that have disabilities so severe that they have to be educated elsewhere. D Maguire asks if it would be possible to take money from the unreserved trust fund for this. B Hickey says that the account is for unanticipated costs only.

Pg. 33 D Maguire feels that \$3,100.00 for an athletic director is needless.

Pg. 52 P Wood doesn't like the idea that we are paying tuition reimbursement and then giving teachers raises.

Pg. 54 P Wood asks if we could save on travel and have some workshops in Seabrook. L Shepherd says that they do host a few workshops and that B Belanger is certified in some stuff.

Pg.65 B Belanger explains that the summer hire is to help with big projects.

Pg. 69 P Wood asks about the big increase. B Belanger says that the internet needs to be upgraded; more bandwidth is needed to keep up with the curriculum.

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Pg. 70 D Hawkins asks if these are all new software programs. B Belanger says that some are new and some are biannual renewals.

Pg. 72 P Wood asks what the Bluetooth adapters are. B Belanger says that they are a replaceable part for the smart boards and that a few of them have been broken and need replacement. Discussion on replacement of computers and replacement equipment.

Pg. 74 L Shepherd explains that tis account is for a counselor that comes in and works with a few students. P Wood asks if this should be included in Special Ed. L Shepherd says that the students aren't always special needs. P Wood thought that we already employed counselors. L Shepherd says that this is a little more extensive than that.

Pg. 86 D Hawkins asks if we could get a breakdown of the valuation of Seabrook. B Casassa has already asked and B Hickey is working on it. Discussion on the impact of the power plant valuation on the school valuation.

Pg. 90 School board adjusted this line after the budget was set.

Pg. 105 D Hawkins thought that most of the schools equipment was new. T Tavares says that they have to be prepared.

Discussion on the Honeywell project and its savings.

Discussion on discrepancies in default budgets for accounts

D Maguire comments on how impressed he was with the condition of the school and that he appreciated what the custodial staff does.

Pg. 122 was not budgeted accurately last year.

Pg. 133 Discussion on state retirement and FICA and who is included in these categories.

Pg. 135 Discussion on how the unemployment insurance rate is determined, more info will be provided at the next meeting.

Pg. 136 D Hawkins asks if other towns have multiple retirement accounts. B Hickey says yes.

**Warrant Articles**

Review of warrant articles.

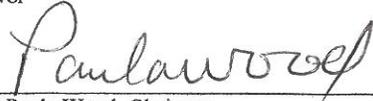
Review of revenues

School will let us know the best date to return with more information.

Motion P Wood Adjourn at 9:55PM

All in favor

Signed:



Date:

Paula Wood, Chairman