

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Present: School Board Members Joseph Saulnier, Michelle Couture (6:03 PM), Janice Arsenault, and Beth Paris; Superintendent Tina McCoy; Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore; Technology Director Kevin Federico; Facilities Director It; Todd Ledoux; LEAP/After School Program Director Pat Arsenault, and Food Service Director Judith DiNatale.

Proof of Posting: It was noted that the meeting was properly posted.

Pledge of Allegiance: All those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to Amend the Agenda: Mr. Saulnier suggested that, because there is limited time for additional meetings, the School Board consider discussion and action on budget cuts this evening. MOTION: Beth Paris moved, seconded by Janice Arsenault, to make an amendment to the agenda to start talking about cuts now. Voted unanimously in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, Janice Arsenault, and Beth Paris.

2019-2020 Budget Work Session - Department Presentations: Dr. McCoy and Mrs. Whitmore reviewed the responses to questions from the previous night's School Board Budget Work Session.

During discussion:

- Mr. Saulnier noted that regarding the bus contract, the buses are priced per bus, not per hour use of the buses.
- Dr. McCoy clarified that there are 32 para positions at LRES this year, and the budget proposes 30 for next year.
- Mr. Saulnier asked why cutting two positions decreases the line only \$10,000. Dr. McCoy stated that we have 32 now that we need, but 32 weren't budgeted. The District is required to provide a para if needed in accordance with an IEP.
- Mr. Saulnier asked to know what was actually budgeted last year for each school.
- Dr. McCoy stated that it's her understanding that when a special education student is referred to the YEES worker at the high school, that referral is a team decision.

Mrs. Whitmore reviewed some updated documents that she distributed to the Board: *Summary by Department*, *Summary of Expenses by Object Code*, and *Student Services proposed budget*.

After School Program: Mr. Arsenault reviewed the proposed After School Program budget with the School Board.

During discussion:

- Mr. Saulnier asked if any of the \$4000 in professional development was used in the current year. Mr. Arsenault described some of the professional development activities that will be charged against that line. Mr. Saulnier asked for the actuals to date for the professional development date.

Mr. Arsenault reviewed the initiative to coordinate the before-school program at LRES. He noted a typo and stated that the revenue generated could be up to \$41,000. During discussion:

- The contract with YMCA is yearly and ends June 2019.

Food Service: Mrs. DiNatale reviewed the proposed Food Service budget with the School Board.

During discussion:

- Mr. Saulnier asked how many times a year food is ordered. Mrs. DiNatale responded that it depends on the time of year, and that most of the ordering goes through the State Bid.

Facilities: Mr. Ledoux reviewed the proposed Facilities budget with the School Board. During discussion:

- The current price per gallon for oil is \$2.79 and is in the proposed budget for \$2.89 per gallon.
- The increase in software is due to ALICE and MSDS.
- Truck maintenance has increased due to increased cost for undercoating spray as well as maintenance.
- Mr. Saulnier inquired about the increase on Expense by Object Codes for Sewer and Water. Mrs. Whitmore stated that she would need to research that. Payments for the water line at the high school property would have been taken from the CIP. Mrs. Whitmore stated that it is a district-wide line, and that audit, legal, and GASB are in that line so it should actually be up above in Other Services. Other Services should be \$101,865 and the Sewer and Water should be \$24,148. Marjorie said it's DW, put the audit, legal, and GASB in that line and it should actually be up above in other services.

Mr. Ledoux reviewed the proposed initiative for groundskeeping work to be contracted out or to hire another employee for.

- Mr. Ledoux stated that, given the choice between a contractor or a full-time worker, his preference would be for the full-time employee.
- If the position is approved, about \$6,000 would be decreased from the substitute line, but with additional work, the substitute line might be a wash.
- Mrs. Arsenault asked how long the portables will be kept at LRES. Mr. Ledoux stated that they are not energy efficient, cost money to maintain, and are past their life expectancy. Dr. McCoy stated that how long the District will need them is dependent on enrollment and class sizes. Mr. Ledoux stated that he wouldn't recommend purchasing these portables. The portables are on a year to year contract currently. The cost to have them removed is \$19,000 total.

Technology: Mr. Federico reviewed the proposed Technology budget with the School Board. During discussion:

- Three carts equates to 75 devices.
- Mrs. Arsenault asked if the \$30,000 for the rollout devices, is that reflected in the new equipment? Yes.
- Every Chromebook is 365 compatible.
- The Smarboards are replacing three broken Smartboards. They are all replacements, not new.

Discussion of potential proposed budget adjustments: Dr. McCoy summarized a review of proposed initiatives and decreases in the proposed budget.

- The tuition for preschool is set by the School Board, and changes could be made to the cost. Dr. McCoy stated that even if the school district stopped taking students on a tuition basis, we still are required to have preschool for identified students, and the most staff that could be cut would be one teacher.
- Mrs. Paris feels the tech budget is too high and requested cuts be made there. Mr. Saulnier stated that it's been the most underfunded program for a long time.
- The Tier 1 cuts are already integrated into the budget.
- A budget of 25,818,943 is an increase of 4.6%.

- Mr. Saulnier asked what the JAG program does. Mr. Woodward replied that it prepares students for the workforce, assists with resumes, interviews, career exploration and job shadowing.
- Mr. Saulnier asked if the high school could do without the .6 Spanish teacher. Mr. Woodward replied no, that the position is needed for scheduling, and they can't double up levels 2 and 3.
- Mrs. Arsenault stated that she can't support a budget that has teachers teaching two students in a class. Students need to make choices. Mr. Woodward stated that these numbers are given to the Board every year, and if we want to cap a class at 10, then it would cause us to think outside the box. Mrs. Arsenault stated that she would push for minimum class sizes: if a class doesn't reach the minimum then it doesn't get offered; no lower than 12 with the exception of REAP, AP, or Algebra geared to remedial instruction..

Mr. Saulnier recommended combining two of the Spanish I classes, combining the Spanish 3 and 4 classes, so there is one teacher at the middle school for Spanish, one at the high school for Spanish, and one at the high school for French.

Mrs. Arsenault proposed eliminating a high school science teaching position, based on class enrollment numbers. This amount would be \$104,718 savings as per Marjorie Whitmore.

It was the consensus of the Board to remove for now the YEES worker at the middle school in next year's budget.

Mrs. Paris stated that she believes the Math Interventionist is imperative. Mrs. Couture proposed eliminating an open para position at the high school. Mr. Saulnier proposed eliminating a case manager position at the high school. Mrs. Paris stated she would rather see reductions to the JAG program. Mr. Woodward asked that the Board take the time to review the class loads before making cuts. Dr. McCoy asked Mr. Woodward where he would cut if he had do. Mr. Woodward stated that the music teacher is currently teaching three classes.

After further discussion, the following revisions were determined to be made to the budget:

Eliminate one RHS science teacher
Remove IHGMS YEES worker
Eliminate one RHS para
Reduce one RHS English position to ½ time
Eliminate the JAG program
Total reductions: \$282,043

It was also agreed to add in the increases for the before school program and potential for the math interventionist.

Adjournment: MOTION: Janice Arsenault moved, seconded by Michelle Couture, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,
Raymond School Board Clerk

