

Raymond School Board Meeting
November 1, 2016
Raymond High School Media Center
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Approved December 7, 2016

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Present: School Board Members John Harmon, Jaclyn Serrine, Joseph Saulnier, and Susan Pettigrew; Ron Brickett, Ellen Small, and Peter Weaver in attendance for the school district.

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

Correspondence: The School Board read in its entirety an email from Tina Thomas relative to budget preparation. A copy of that email is attached to these minutes

2017-2018 Budget: Mr. Brickett reviewed out-of-district and in-district special education tuition needs and made the following suggestions: LRES out-of-district tuition budget should decrease from \$106,000 to \$61,000; RHS out-of-district tuition budget should increase from \$537,000 to \$592,000. (IHGMS out-of-district tuition budget should remain the same at \$157,000.)

It was noted that Special Education Director Walter Anacki was asked to complete an audit of IEP's to assist in investigating the increase in the number of IEP's in the district. He will present that information at a future Board meeting.

Mr. Brickett stated that they are budgeting for two less para's at LRES and two less para's at IHGMS next year than what is currently at both schools. Mr. Harmon expressed concern for reducing para's while budgeting for 315 students with IEP's.

Mr. Brickett reviewed the WEX card option. The WEX card would allow the school district to purchase gas without being charged tax on the price per gallon. The School Board will consider the use of WEX cards at a future meeting.

During the review of a report on electricity, Mr. Harmon requested looking at field lighting in the future to see if it should be continued.

Mr. Brickett reviewed staffing adjustments and proposed communications initiative. He noted that NH Retirement does not need to be paid for these types of stipends. Based on prior years' experience, he recommends decreasing the salary line by \$100,000 for lower cost replacement employees.

Regarding the After School Program, Mr. Harmon noted that the admin-proposed budget has money set aside if the grant is successful. He asked if the district does not receive the grant, what should be planned for those funds. After some discussion: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Susan Pettigrew, that if the district does not receive the grant for the after school program, the \$88,000 would be returned to the taxpayers. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

There was some discussion about teaching positions. Regarding the possible elimination of a second grade teacher, upon a poll of the Board members, it was determined that no action will take place to eliminate a second grade teacher. Regarding *not* adding an extra fourth grade teacher, upon a poll of the Board members, it was determined that a fourth grade teacher would be eliminated.

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Regarding the salary line, Mr. Harmon stated that the line has been decreased by \$100,000 in the past but the year ended with a positive variance. He suggested decreasing it by \$150,000. Mr. Saulnier suggested \$100,000, as he feels the teacher's contract with raises and a potential RESS contract might mean more teachers staying in the district. It was generally agreed to decrease the salary line by \$125,000. Mr. Brickett clarified that with the social security costs of \$6,562 and retirement costs of \$21,700, the total decrease in the budget would be \$156,262.

The net increase of \$10,000 in out-of-district special education tuition costs should be included, which will increase the total budgeted amount for special education tuition to \$810,000.

Mr. Harmon stated that he would like to see the wage pool premium contribution go from 6% to 5%. He stated that he would also like to see the wage pool merit percentage be increased from 2.5% to 3%.

Regarding the budget initiatives proposed by administration:

The Board supported the LEAP initiatives 4-0.

The Board supported the maintenance initiative, adding 25% to the part time position making it a 75% position, 4-0.

The Board supported the communications initiatives for social media stipends 4-0.

The Board supported the increase to the principals' salaries 4-0.

The Board supported the addition of \$10,000 to the HS Music Equipment line for uniforms 4-0.

LRES asked 2,500 for a team leader for a case manager: Board agreed to cut the increase.

Mr. Brickett noted that the oil costs will be revised from \$2.25 per gallon to \$2.50 per gallon.

Mrs. Pettigrew called for discussion on decreasing the Technology budget by 10%. There was no movement on the issue.

The total proposed 2017-18 budget after revisions is \$23,893,248, which is an increase of \$365,447 or 1.55% from the 2016-17 budget.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to accept the budget for year 2017-18 of \$23,893,248. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Susan Pettigrew, that the School Board Chair write a letter to the Selectmen regarding who will go first this year for Deliberative Session. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Susan Pettigrew, to adjourn the meeting. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph Saulnier,
School Board Secretary



Jennifer Heywood <j.heywood@sau33.com>

November 1, 2016 Budget Meeting: Public Comment

1 message

Tina M. Thomas <thethomasfamilynh@comcast.net>

Mon, Oct 31, 2016 at 11:48 AM

To: schoolboard <schoolboard@sau33.com>

Cc: jmemt11@comcast.net

There is no public input listed on the 11/1/2016 meeting where you all will be taking action on the 2017-2018 budget. I am requesting this email be read at that meeting *before* the vote is taken that evening.

All:

The School Board has over raised and over appropriated General Fund Expenditures for the past 7 years.

In 2009-2010 the School Board raised and appropriated, but did not spend \$599,213 in General Fund Expenditures.

In 2010-2011 the School Board raised and appropriated, but did not spend \$431,942 in General Fund Expenditures.

In 2011-2012 the School Board raised and appropriated, but did not spend \$242,947 in General Fund Expenditures.

In 2012-2013 the School Board raised and appropriated, but did not spend \$83,480 in General Fund Expenditures (We paid for two Superintendents during this school year.)

In 2013-2014 the School Board raised and appropriated, but did not spend \$230,475 in General Fund Expenditures.

In 2014-2015 the School Board raised and appropriated, but did not spend \$264,012 in General Fund Expenditures.

In 2015-2016 the School Board raised and appropriated, but did not spend \$476,790 in General Fund Expenditures.

In seven years the School Board has raised and appropriated \$2,328,859 (\$2.3 Million) in General Fund Expenditures that were never spent. Why is this practice of over raising and appropriating allowing to be continued into the 2017-2018 budget?

Tina M. Thomas

cc: Budget Committee Chairman Josh Mann, to be shared at the next Budget Committee meeting, please.

