

SWH Warrant Committee
Minutes of Meeting 2/20/2020
6:00 PM

Meeting in conjunction with School Board and Select Board

I. Call to Order/Roll Call through a sign-in sheet for all

Warrant Committee members present: Jesse Dunbar, Chair, John Williams, Carolyn Ball, Priscilla Ksionzyk, Jim Vallette, Ruth Davis

Abs: Don Lodge,

II. Discussion of School Budget Items Speaking John Bench, Chair of Board; Nancy Thorlow, Business Manager; Mark Gousse, Superintendent; Rhonda Fortin, Principal; Jim Sawyer Board member; Board member; Ingrid Katchmar, Board member

Distributed Budget and Fiscal and Demographic Summary and proposed budget

1. Revenues

Loan debt will be paid off Nov 2020 . Apply for federal compensation for students of Coast Guard members. State subsidy is listed as \$310,000. It may be \$320,000. 5.4% increase

2. Regular Instruction

Salaries are negotiated in a 3 year contract; 7% increase this year. BC/BS is projected for 10%. but the district will know the figure in early April before the Town Meeting. BC/BS did not increase the last two years. If less than projected, the Board will ask for an adjustment at town meeting. The substitute pay is increased to be above minimum wage and in alignment with other Hancock County schools.

3. Special Ed.

35% of students at Pemetic are special education students. The state average is 17%. The numbers are fairly close to the schools in the district. More and more students are being identified as having social and emotional trauma. Family dynamics are changing. Students are dysregulated; They say or do things they shouldn't. The district is asking for a social worker to provide emotional support to students and training for teachers. Superintendent Gousse is going to forward an article on this issue. Other ways the school tries to support teachers working with children: mindfulness training with students, weekly memos for staff on how to work with traumatized youth, learning calming strategies.

State spec ed reimbursement is 45% . Fiscal year 18-19 student numbers are used to provide funding for 20-21

4. Other Co-Curricular and Other Instruction

The school has a teacher available 45 minutes before class for the Learning Lab.

Managing emergency aid and an the afternoon program are part of co-curricular stipends.

5. Student and Staff Support

This includes improvement of instruction

6. System Administration

Covers Superintendent, business office, cost for AOS service in 3 areas special services, curriculum, system administration, but we see only the superintendent's office in this category.

The costs are distributed in the other areas of the budget

7. Transportation

The school is looking at cameras mounted on the outside of the bus. Drivers are passing the busses when they are stopped. Bussing is an area the district is looking at for better coordination (along with also food service).

8. Facilities and Maintenance

The budget shows an increase for contracted services for mechanical systems: heating. This reflects a more realistic number. The school has been paying more than budgeted. The Superintendent believe that solar may be considered in the future. The HS is projected to have \$1.2 million savings over 20 years.

9. Debt Service

Will have no debt service next year.

10. Food Service

Remains the same

11. Possible New

Money going to debt can be possibly used for future needs: There is need to replace windows but it is not in this year's budget. The front entrance is not ADA compliant. Water runs towards the building in one location. Parking lot floods. The parking lot needs to be addressed by either/both the School and Town. The School needs to increase its maintenance reserve.

Additions to the proposed fiscal year budget.

Retirement Instructional staff currently have no retirement plan. This is proposed to change district wide with a 3% match. Others are under ME State Retirement.

Pre-K District wide program. We would pay for half the program partnering with Tremont. A teacher and ed tech would be added. ½ day program. Start-up costs will include tables/chairs, supplies for about 14 kids each. Tremont School and Tremont's select board have approved it to go to the voters. The reason for the request is that children are better prepared. Trenton already has the program and can see a difference between those who go to Pre-K and those who don't. It helps mitigate challenges and helps identify supports earlier. It's not mandatory.

Already discussed: Behavioral Specialist/Social Wkr island wide position. The charge for each school in the district will be based upon use of services.

Additional Ed Tech. The School knows that it will need a tech for one on one work.

Additional

The district is trying to mitigate health care costs and energy. The district will have an informational meeting for the community, including discussion of mandated special ed costs.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55PM

Respectfully Submitted Carolyn Ball