

**Minutes of the
Litchfield Budget Committee Meeting
Held on November 30, 2017**

The Litchfield Budget Committee held a meeting on Thursday, November 30, 2017 at Campbell High School, One Highlander Court, Litchfield, NH 03052.

PRESENT: C Couture (Chair), K Douglas (Vice Chair), J Bourque, R Keating, D Miller, J Spotts, J Bourque, C Harrison (School Board Representative)

Absent: J Brunelle

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Couture called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

- **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- **REVIEW/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

Mrs. Couture announced Member Input will be moved up to the beginning of the meeting.

- **Member Input/Misc Business**

Mrs. Couture announced that Julie Green has resigned from Budget Committee because she accepted a full time position with the Litchfield School District. She noted that the options are to appoint a new member or leave the position vacant until March 2018. She indicated the next scheduled Budget Committee meetings are December 7 and 14, with the Budget Hearing on January 11, 2018 and Deliberative Sessions on February 3 and 10, 2018.

Mrs. Bourque commented that it would be difficult to get someone up to speed with the Committee at this point. She felt the position should be left vacant until the March vote. She was concerned with an even membership there may be tied votes.

Mrs. Couture indicated that there is no guarantee every member will attend every meeting.

Mr. Miller and Mr. Keating agreed with Mrs. Bourque. Other members were in agreement.

Mrs. Couture commented the Committee will continue with the current membership. She noted there will be four open positions in March 2018.

Mrs. Couture announced Mr. Miller asked to speak to the Committee and present some information he would like to share.

Mr. Miller presented some historical research that spanned the last 10 years. He indicated data sources included enrollment information excluding pre-k and kindergarten, cost per student,

budget information, spending information and CPI (consumer price index) information. He noted some of his information was taken from the NH DOE website. His data showed that:

- the student count has decreased since 2007 and the budget has increased 21%;
- the budget has gone from \$12M to \$22M over a span of 17 years;
- the cost per student has increased 78% over time for what it costs to educate a student;
- school board goals for kindergarten reflect the steps that will be taken by the school board and district to gather information and research, reach out to the community and place full day kindergarten on the warrant with a proposed implementation for the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year.

Mr. Miller indicated that he read about what has been done with regard to full day kindergarten in the School Board minutes. He was unsure of what research had been done. He commented that he was not aware of full day kindergarten plans until it began to be discussed in September. Mr. Miller believes it was based on what the state offered for funding. He was concerned that it may be somewhat unsustainable to continue spend and increasing budgets with declining enrollment. He mentioned a budget increase due to increasing enrollment has been supported by the town in the past.

Mr. O'Neill asked if Mr. Miller factored in inflation. Mr. Miller commented he could not equate it to read dollars, but the cost of educating students is higher than the CPI.

Mrs. Douglas commented that she understands the cost per student. She believes people have the right to be asked if they would support the implementation of a full day kindergarten program. She indicated that there is supposed to be a progression about how we get to full day kindergarten and all of a sudden it is here. Mrs. Douglas commented full day kindergarten costs are included in the budget, the schools need substantial mechanical attention and the town is looking at a new fire station. She wanted to know the danger of asking the people if the School Board is confident about full day kindergarten. She noted if it is included in the budget you will never be able to say with certainty why people supported the budget.

Mrs. Couture indicated background information has been researched and data has been gathered with regard to full day kindergarten.

Mr. O'Neill indicated the School Board was looking at full day kindergarten three years ago. He noted there has been conversation that has not been captured in the public arena. He believes that full day kindergarten is integral to early childhood education and one of the best expenditures of our money in terms of not letting children fall behind in the core grades. Mr. O'Neill commented the additional funding from the state was a factor in the decision, as was the capacity to reassign teachers. He indicated it was his direction to keep to a tight budget the last few years.

Mr. O'Neill commented we are a representative democracy; not a participatory democracy. He elect people to represent the people. He believes the School Board has every right and reason to vote for something they believe is right and speak to the people about it. He asked about the data

presented with regard to the increase in the cost per student. He asked what other districts has Litchfield been compared with. Mr. O'Neill indicated we want to have our district to compare to the top 20 districts. He commented Litchfield deserves that kind of educational system. He noted that we held off for a few years because we did not have the money to go forward with full day kindergarten. He indicated that he feels comfortable including it in the budget and sustaining full day kindergarten.

Mrs. Couture commented there has been some awareness in the community. She asked if there could be more.

Mrs. Harrison indicated there can always be more awareness. She commented it has never been the School Board's intention to hide it from the community. She noted there will be further communication. She mentioned through feedback from the community there is support for full day kindergarten.

Mr. O'Neill noted that in the first presentations to both the School Board and the Budget Committee full day kindergarten was listed as the top priority.

Mrs. Douglas commented in the School Board goals it is mentioned that full day kindergarten will be presented to the community on the warrant. She asked what has changed.

Mr. O'Neill commented that he cannot answer for the School Board. He indicated that there are opportunities with full day kindergarten.

Mrs. Harrison indicated the School Board voted in favor of keeping full day kindergarten in the FY19 budget. She commented our job is to improve education and provide the best education and opportunities we can for our children. She noted the Budget Committee's job is to keep taxes lower.

Mrs. Douglas commented there is intention to roll out the 1:1 program at LMS and that she could not find the cost in the FY19 budget.

Mr. Izbicki indicated the cost was pulled out of the original budget and placed in the strategic budget. He noted it would be one of the items we would prioritize with year-end funding.

Mrs. Douglas commented the program is being expanded.

Mr. O'Neill indicated that the district would not be expanding the program if we did not think it would be a benefit. He commented the district believes providing computers to children is critical. He noted that they looked at a school that had a 1:1 program for all middle and high school students. Mr. O'Neill indicated students use computers every day and it is the critical tool we need in education.

Mrs. Douglas commented she sees children who cannot communicate to each other, cannot spell, and have atrocious grammar because they use computers. She indicated people are concerned about the emergence of computers in the lower grades.

Mrs. Couture indicated the cost is not in the budget, but rather is a strategic item.

Mrs. Douglas indicated she is concerned about how much funding will be remaining at the end of the year. She wanted to know how much more tight the district could be with the budget.

Mrs. Couture indicated that has no relevance to the initial conversation and the Committee needs to move forward.

Mrs. Couture asked about the default budget.

Mr. Izbicki indicated that a draft was presented to the School Board last night, but more information and clarification was requested for some of the calculations. He noted the default budget preparation is in process.

Mr. O'Neill explained because the calculation of the default was done in a way not done before, the School Board felt more clarification was needed. He indicated when the Budget Committee receives it, it will be clear and concise. He noted the School Board will have a draft on December 6 and the Budget Committee should be able to have a copy.

Mrs. Couture was disappointed that the Budget Committee did not have a draft of the default budget. She commented it feels as if we are missing a large bit of information.

Mr. Izbicki reported based on the calculation, the FY19 Default Budget is \$100,000 less than the proposed budget.

2. PUBLIC INPUT

Chris Pascucci, 12 Colonia Drive, spoke about full day kindergarten. He indicated that he believes in full day kindergarten. He commented that it was stated Litchfield does not have a full day program, but it does – it is just not taxpayer funded as are other programs that are not district funded. He made the following statements:

The projected cost is \$500,000 with approximately \$150,000 added to the budget.

It will not cost \$150,000; it will cost \$500,000. Part of the funds come from the state, which come out of our own pockets. Teachers already included in the budget will be reallocated, which will be an added cost because those teachers that are not needed should be removed from the budget and then brought back in (which is an additional cost). Remaining funds will be provided through Keno revenues, which is not guaranteed.

Mr. Pascucci commented full day kindergarten is not mandated. He agreed it is beneficial for the transition into first grade, but it should not be debated in this room. He indicated the School Board should have that discussion with the community. He believes the School Board and

Administration are trying to sell that view to nine people and then it goes in the budget. He commented if it is included in the budget voters do not have a choice. Mr. Pascucci stated he heard that Litchfield has the eighth highest income in the state, but he does not know what that has to do with full day kindergarten. He commented no one in this town owes a full day kindergarten education to anyone because it is not mandated and should not be in the budget unless voters approve it on the warrant.

Mr. Pascucci indicated when part time kindergarten was implemented the mentality was full day kindergarten will be coming and that parents who send their children to private pre-k will be disadvantaged if they come into public kindergarten. He commented there are many parents who send their children to private kindergarten and it is expensive. He stated spending all this money will be creating a new entitlement and no one will use it. He asked the Budget Committee to do the right thing. He requested if anyone at this table votes to keep full day kindergarten in the budget, please explain why you would be forcing people to fail the entire budget just for that one program. Mr. Pascucci commented he is a proponent of full day kindergarten and believes in early childhood education, but those without children should not have to pay for the program. He indicated the budget is rising drastically every year and continues to rise. He is more concerned about the people that cannot afford rising taxes and it is only fair to give them the choice regarding this program.

REVIEW/ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- November 2, 2017

MOTION: by Mrs. Douglas

Move to approve the November 2, 2017 minutes

SECOND: by Mrs. Bourque

VOTE: 7-0-0

The motion carried.

- November 9, 2017

The November 9, 2017 will be deferred to the December 7, 2017 meeting.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Couture indicated that the Budget Committee received much information: the teachers' contract, school board goals, technology plan, enrollment, superintendent's salary comparison, 6th period classes, guidance case load, spend ahead for textbooks, curriculum review cycle and text replacement cycle; change in health care costs for the Library in the town budget; legal opinion on the 2003 warrant article regarding new and expanded positions/programs. She noted that the legal response states that it was a petition article which is an advisory article; the voters cannot take away the legal responsibility from the governing body by law; the School Board and Board of Selectmen make the decisions by law.

4. BUDGET REVIEW: SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mrs. Couture indicated that the Budget Committee will vote by function according to the MS-27 template.

Mr. O'Neill commented the FY19 Default Budget is \$100,000 less than the FY19 Recommended Budget. He announced that the district has just received information about revenues for next year.

Mr. Izbicki reported that the FY19 adequacy aid estimate reflects a loss of \$295,000 for the district. Mr. O'Neill indicated it is due to the October 1 ADM projections.

Mrs. Couture commented that while looking at history while reviewing the budget, she was able to find reductions in the amount of \$281,000. She polled Budget Committee members regarding reductions.

Mr. Miller indicated he found close to \$1M in reductions. Mrs. Douglas indicated that she was close to Mr. Miller's amount of reductions as well.

- **Discussion and Voting on Budget Changes**

MOTION: by Mr. Miller

Move to reduce \$494,091 from function 1100-1199, Regular Education, for costs associated to full day kindergarten

SECOND: by Mrs. Douglas

Mr. Miller believes that full day kindergarten should be placed on the warrant.

Mrs. Douglas agreed and commented it gives greater choice to voters. She indicated something this big should go before the voters.

Mr. Miller stated if full day kindergarten comes forward as a warrant article, he will support it. He believes the voters have the right to vote on it and believes they will support it.

Mrs. Douglas commented community support is necessary for a successful school system and the full day kindergarten program deserves to start on the right foot.

Mr. Miller commented the 2003 warrant article is clear about new positions and equipment. He indicated we should be consistent in doing what the voters want.

Mr. Spotts agreed that the voters should be asked for their approval as it is a large expenditure. He suggested putting emotional feelings aside as this is a financial decision.

Mrs. Bourque agreed with Mr. Spotts, but indicated she does not agree with all the arguments put forward. She commented the Superintendent made a very good point about why we were elected. She noted the people of this town have the right to make the decision. Mrs. Bourque indicated she will support full day kindergarten if it is presented on the warrant.

Mr. O'Neill clarified that the Budget Committee can reduce the budget, but cannot direct the School Board what to place in a warrant article.

Mrs. Couture commented that she thought very long about this. She indicated we adopted statewide standards and in order to meet those standards a full day program may be necessary; however, we do not follow every directive and we take the information under advisement. She noted she does not have an issue if full day kindergarten is included in the budget or on the warrant as it is something she will support regardless.

Mr. Keating commented that he is an advocate of education, but this was a difficult decision because it is hard to tell professionals what they need or do not need. He indicated when you look at this from a tax perspective that would be something that would be approved as a warrant article. He believes it should be placed on the warrant.

Mrs. Couture commented that Mr. Miller's data had an impact, but if the state is trending lower than the district that is a concern. She indicated hearing about a potential loss of revenue is a factor as well.

VOTE: 6-1-0, with Mrs. Harrison opposing.

MOTION: by Mr. Miller

Move to reduce \$148,000 from function 1100-1199, which represents the amount of the technology spend ahead

SECOND: by Mrs. Douglas

Mr. Izbicki explained the spend ahead was to address concerns the district had going into Special Education and those funds were allocated to Special Education. He indicated before the FY18 budget was posted it was reduced in the budget module, although the bottom line did not change. He commented we needed to have notes to inform us why those funds were moved.

Mrs. Douglas asked about the underspend for Special Education.

Mr. Izbicki commented we are anticipating a need in the current year for Special Education and we do not know what will be remaining in that account at the end of the year.

Mrs. Douglas commented the Budget Committee added money to that budget. She asked if the district is still concerned about a shortfall.

Mrs. Harrison indicated that we had an anticipated placement at that time.

Mr. O'Neill commented Special Education is a dynamic area. He indicated some years more money has to be budgeted than in others. He noted it is difficult to know what is going to occur 18 months in advance. Mr. O'Neill commented there was a small amount remaining in Special Education at the end of FY17 and when we recalculated we found there was more than we

originally determined, and we returned all of it to the town. He shared that Pembroke recently discovered they were \$1M short in funding. He asked the Budget Committee to please fund the district. He asked the Budget Committee to be considerate of how much is needed to run the district.

Mrs. Douglas estimated the underspend for FY17 was approximately \$500,000. She commented we had a conversation last year that the district was short-funded, but still had a large underspend. She indicated it is insulting to this committee. She noted we are trying to be realistic about the cost.

Mr. Spotts asked what happens to the year end funds. Mrs. Douglas commented some is spent on year end purchases/projects and some is returned.

Mrs. Douglas commented that she does not want to hurt the district, but that much of an underspend means we are not being as conservative as we should be.

Mr. Miller commented if money was allocated to Special Education, not all of it was. Referring to the \$148,000 that was spent ahead, he indicated he asked for the technology plan and was provided with a replacement plan, but it does not reflect the direction the district is going.

Mrs. Harrison commented she is not sure what Mr. Miller is looking for. She indicated the School Board goals are to have 1:1 at LMS and a hybrid model at GMS.

Mr. O'Neill commented it is difficult to lay out a plan for more than two or three years. He indicated Mr. Pelletier looked at the purchase plan and readjusted it. He noted it is actually less than last year's plan.

Mrs. Couture redirected the Committee to focus on the motion. She indicated that her reduction was not because of the spend ahead, but was taking out the extra pieces and placing them on the strategic plan. She noted she is not in favor of the motion for the reduction of \$148,000 as she has a different rationale. She commented she will not amend the motion because her reduction is under a different function.

VOTE: 2-5-0, with Mr. Miller and Mrs. Douglas in support
The motion failed.

MOTION: by Mrs. Couture
Move to reduce \$27,274 from function 2200-2299
SECOND: by Mrs. Douglas

Mrs. Couture explained that the reduction represents the 115 Chromebooks budgeted for the incoming freshmen as it is outside the replacement plan.

Mr. Pelletier commented if we did not fund it, the incoming freshmen will not have Chromebooks.

Mrs. Couture believes that the district can spend ahead for that this year. She indicated this is not the appropriate place to fund that.

Mr. O'Neill commented our fund balance was higher in FY16 than in FY17. He indicated the Budget Committee asked us to reduce our fund balance and we have done that. He noted the fund balance for FY18 will be lower and will continue to decrease in subsequent years.

VOTE: 3-4-0

The motion failed.

MOTION: by Mr. Miller

Move to reduce \$15,000 from function 2320

SECOND: by Mrs. Douglas

Mr. Miller explained that he is proposing that the salary budgeted for the new superintendent be lower. He believes that the \$135,000 budgeted is excessive based on the fact that the current superintendent's salary excludes benefits and is a part time salary.

Mrs. Harrison indicated we are competing with many districts in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. She commented it would be a disservice to reduce that salary.

Mr. Miller commented the district is free to pay the next superintendent that salary. He indicated that a salary of \$120,000 with an additional \$30,000 in benefits is enough.

Mrs. Couture commented that she looked at the salary comparison data provided and the average was \$125,647. She indicated that she looked at the data for ten districts (excluding Litchfield, Hillsboro/Deering, and another lower salary) and calculated an average of \$123,218. She noted she had a different reduction for that salary.

MOTION: by Mrs. Couture

Move to amend the motion to reduce function 2320 by \$10,000

SECOND: by Mr. Miller

Mr. Izbicki commented the range for the superintendent's salary is budgeted with the benefits for a 2-person plan. He indicated if someone with a young family is hired, the family plan is \$10,000 higher. He noted if you want to attract an administrator that will be in the district for a longer time, you have to offer a higher salary. He added the reduction will limit what the district is able to offer.

Mrs. Couture commented it is not going to impact the ability to offer. She indicated we will have to determine how to make due in next year's budget.

Mrs. Bourque asked how many openings for superintendents there are in southern NH. Mrs. Harrison indicated there are ten openings and one has been filled.

Mr. O'Neill noted two more openings have been filled in Massachusetts. He was concerned about the continuation to use the term "average" to hire a superintendent. He indicated he would like to leave this district with an outstanding superintendent for an outstanding district.

Mrs. Bourque commented she would rather have the money in the budget to be competitive than hire someone that is not adequate.

Mr. Spotts commented \$135,000 is reasonable and it is not the Budget Committee's job to set salary.

Mrs. Couture commented even if the budget was level funded the loss of \$295,000 in revenue is a big impact. She indicated the Committee has to look at even the smallest places to make reductions.

Mrs. Douglas commented this is not an emotional decision. She indicated it is just a number and is not personal.

Mrs. Couture commented that the new superintendent will be hired before Deliberative Session. She indicated that the Committee can revisit it at Deliberative Session if necessary.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION: 3-4-0
The amended motion failed.

VOTE ON THE MAIN MOTION: 3-4-0
The main motion failed.

MOTION: by Mrs. Douglas
Move to reduce \$2,800 from function 2700-2799
SECOND: by Mrs. Couture

Mrs. Douglas indicated the reduction is to remove the cost budgeted for field trips. She commented that the argument is that field trips are expensive, but if you break out the costs it is \$10.00 per student. She believes that is not a large amount for a parent to pay to fund transportation for the field trip.

Mrs. Harrison indicated parents already pay a portion. She noted what was budgeted was to help defray the cost for transportation. Mrs. Douglas indicated with the loss of revenue the Committee has to be more conservative with the budget.

Mr. O'Neill commented that the state sets policy for districts to fund for the integrity of the child. Mrs. Douglas commented it is an arbitrary number and asked the Superintendent to provide proof of his statement.

VOTE: 1-6-0

The motion failed.

MOTION: by Mrs. Couture

Move to reduce \$10,000 from function 2700-2799

SECOND: by Mrs. Douglas

Mrs. Couture indicated the reduction is toward account 2724, Athletic Transportation. She commented that it is assumed our teams will go to every playoff and every pre-season game, but historically that money is under spent.

Mr. Lonergan was concerned that the district will not be able to provide transportation if the teams do make the playoffs.

VOTE: 3-2-2

The motion carried.

MOTION: by Mrs. Couture

Move to reduce \$166,206 from function 1200-1299

SECOND: by Mrs. Douglas

Mrs. Couture explained that she sent out historical spending and what was budgeted for Special Education. She indicated historically the district spends 89% of what is budgeted and 11% is returned on average.

Mrs. Douglas commented we make reductions as a Budget Committee and there is still an under spend.

Mrs. Couture commented that \$166,206 represents 5%, which still leaves 6% above the average of what is spent. She indicated it is a realistic reduction to help with what the taxpayers will be facing for a tax increase. She noted that she did not propose the reduction to hurt the program, but is trying to get to a number so the voters will approve full day kindergarten.

Mrs. Douglas commented that she reviewed the Special Education data as well. She indicated traditionally the Budget Committee reduces that budget by \$200,000 and there is still an under spend. She noted that the district does an excellent job managing that budget so that the Capital Reserve Fund has never had to be used.

Mrs. Bourque indicated she understands the point Mrs. Couture is making regarding providing the voters with something more presentable, but she believes that supporting this motion is misrepresenting the people that elected her and that she represents.

Mr. Keating commented this is important to his family. He indicated he understands the position, but it is something that is too important to reduce with all the unknowns.

Mrs. Couture indicated the teachers do very good work and the reduction will not impact that work.

Mr. Keating believes that the reduction will impact that work.

Mrs. Couture commented that is why she presented the data a month ago. She indicated this is just numbers.

Mrs. Bourque commented the district gave a very strong presentation last year that this current year was going to be different. She indicated if they used the same rationale for the budget, she would rather not reduce it.

Mrs. Douglas commented if the district brings forth a warrant article to add to the Special Education Capital Reserve Fund then we can afford to reduce this.

Mr. Spotts asked how many children are in this category.

Mrs. Bandurski indicated it could be one student as there are schools that cost \$250,000.

Mr. Spotts asked if we had five special education students come into the district it could have an impact.

Mrs. Couture mentioned there is \$100,000 in the reserve fund. Mr. Spotts commented that it seems that \$100,000 could get used up quickly. He indicated it seems pragmatic to keep the budget where it is. He noted that 11% can get used up quickly by a small amount of people and if it is not used it will be returned to the taxpayers.

Mrs. Douglas commented that we cannot hold anyone to what they are going to do. She indicated the district will still service the students. She noted there is a mechanism to provide that funding. She asked if we should be overtaxing this account as we are overtaxing everywhere else.

Mr. Miller commented we are not reducing the budget, but are reducing the increase.

Mr. O'Neill indicated we have an additional placement and the Budget Committee was kind enough to add that money into the budget for this current year. He commented that the

Committee has already reduced the budget by \$500,000, which puts it \$400,000 below the default budget.

Mrs. Douglas commented that although the Budget Committee reduced the budget by \$500,000 it does not mean the School Board cannot put forth warrant articles or hold a special meeting if needed.

Mrs. Couture commented the increase is \$109,318 over last year's budget.

Mrs. Bandurski indicated that she understands the discussion. She pointed out the number of individuals that we service has increased and we are talking about students with multiple disabilities that require several services. She noted at the end of this year at this point in time we are looking at an additional placement that was unanticipated. Mrs. Bandurski commented it is her job to make sure we provide for those students. She indicated that the district has returned money to the taxpayers, but we are being fiscally conservative when spending.

Mr. Spotts commented that it seems as if a small number of children can put us over the top with this budget and if we go over the bottom line we will have to find it somewhere else.

Mrs. Couture explained there was concern last year that there would be a deficit because of unforeseen circumstances, but the district had an under spend and was able to spend ahead. She indicated there is no reason to believe that there is no way to fund unexpected students and still have unexpended funds.

Mr. O'Neill commented that he understands the logic, but when placements cost more than \$150,000 it can impact that bottom line. He indicated if our underspend is decreasing historically then we are doing what the Budget Committee has directed us to do.

Mrs. Couture commented when money is reallocated from Special Education that money does not go back to the taxpayers.

Mr. Izbicki indicated that the budget voted in March 2018 will not change when posted in the finance system.

Mr. O'Neill indicated whatever the district puts in the Special Education budget stays in the that budget.

VOTE: 3-4-0
The motion failed.

Referring to CHS science, Mrs. Douglas mentioned there is a note in the budget that there are not enough sets for a particular class. She asked if year end funds can be used to purchase them.

Mr. O'Neill indicated that year end funds are spent in prioritized areas.

MOTION: by Mrs. Couture

Move to reduce \$37,180 from function 1400-1499

SECOND: by Mrs. Douglas

Mrs. Couture explained that she combined the totals of all the vacant positions in athletics and co-curricular that have gone unfilled or not been run in two years.

Mr. O'Neill explained that he is trying to migrate that money into more exciting opportunities. He understands that reducing some of that account is reasonable, but requested that the Budget Committee leave some funds in there so he can add some opportunities.

Mr. Miller commented we were told by legal counsel we cannot add stipends that are not in the teachers' contract. Mr. O'Neill agreed. He explained that the district will work with the LEA regarding adding programs.

MOTION: by Mr. Spotts

Move to amend the motion to reduce \$30,000 from function 1400-1499

SECOND: by Mrs. Douglas

VOTE ON THE AMENDED MOTION: 4-1-2

The amended motion carried.

VOTE ON THE MAIN MOTION TO REDUCE \$30,000 FROM ACCOUNT 1400-1499: 4-1-2

The main motion carried.

MOTION: by Mr. Miller

Move to reduce \$11,500 from function 2600-2699

SECOND: by Mrs. Douglas

Mr. Miller indicated he is proposing a \$2,000 reduction in sewer and grease traps (2620), and a reduction in Electricity based on three year actuals (2620).

VOTE: 4-3-0

The motion carried.

Mr. Miller noted salaries and benefits for teachers who teach 6th period classes is in the Salaries and Benefits budget, but there is also a salary for one person budgeted there as well.

Mrs. Messenger indicated there should be a reduction there.

Mr. Miller commented that what is budgeted for 6th period classes increased over the previous year yet enrollment is decreasing.

Mr. Lonergan indicated it is challenging because we still have to provide opportunities for higher achieving students and for struggling students.

Mr. O'Neill indicated the reduction of a .5 teacher in science was filled by a 6th period position.

Mr. Miller commented that it seems illogical that salaries increase when enrollment decreases. He indicated it seems many smaller classes are running.

Mrs. Bandurski commented some of those smaller classes are for special services. She indicated that offering smaller class sizes for these students saves the district the cost of sending them out of district.

Mr. Lonergan briefly reviewed the course sections and indicated that some of those may be combined classes as well. He commented it is a troubling number in one way, but in another way we have to maximize the schedule in a small school.

Mrs. Couture indicated the Budget Committee will stop at this point and make additional decisions going forward. She commented there will be other opportunities to revisit the budget and make changes.

5. REPORTS

- **Town**

There was no town report.

6. Member Input/Misc Business

Moved up to beginning of the meeting.

7. Public Input

There was no public input.

8. Adjourn

MOTION: by Mrs. Douglas

Move to adjourn the meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Keating

VOTE: 7-0-0

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Next meeting: December 7, 2017

Recorded by: Michele E. Flynn, Recording Secretary

Approved: