

Minutes for the budget Committee  
Tuesday Dec. 10, 2019

**Board Members present:**

Lindseigh Picard- School Board rep, Chester LaPoint - Chairman, Ben Kilanski- Selectman rep, Tiffany Melanson, Theresa Sepe- co- Chairman

**Available for comment:**

Val Carey- Winchester Principal, Mary Henry- Winchester Business Manager, Ken Dasseau- Winchester Superintendent, Jen Heise- Director of Student Services, Ian Spencer- Winchester Director of Facilities

**Meeting Called to order at 6:01 PM**

**First Order of Business:** Approve minutes from Nov 16Th, 2019 - Not all Members reviewed the minutes. Chester requested we tabled this until Dec 17Th's meeting

\*Motion to approve\*= MTA

**Second order of business:**

Ben addressed the need to change the budged amount for the FIRE line item to be \$161,399 due to the financial obligation of all the truck payments needing to be paid.

MTA \$161,399 for the Fire Line item- Ben- second Tiffany - 5/0 Motion passes.

The Budget Committee had questions regarding the school budget that were asked and answered in a general question/answer forum.

**Discussions on the following budget items:**

- General Fund Revenue
- Keene High School tuition and Special Education cost
- Adequacy Aid- how the aid is decided
- Speech Path
- Teacher /Tuition reimbursement
- Tech Line

**The following were addressed more specifically and explained:**

-Theresa Sepe asked what the remaining balance was at present, being half way through the year. Mary answered \$ 5.4 Million

- School Board Member Stipend- \$1000 per member Annually/ \$1250 annually for the Chairman- C. Lapointe mentioned he feels that the Stipend should be deleted from the budget. Kevin Bazan explained that the stipend is an incentive to get more community members involved with the school board and is often used by SB members to cover costs for child care expenses Etc.  
There was no further discussion on the matter

- Year to Date budget for Spec. Ed. Theresa asked what the remaining balance was for the year. Mary answered 2. 5 Million.

- Special Education Budget- It was explained that the school has experienced an influx in Special education students.

- Related Service Admin- Questions regarding the increase in costs. Val explained that the School Psychologist resigned before the school year started and having to contract a School Psychologist. There were questions about the cost of the contracted amount. Jen Heise answered that it was \$125. per hour for 32 hours a week.

-Curriculum Development-Val Carey explained that they moved the salary for curriculum coordinator to the School Admin Salary. An explanation of why there is a reduction in that line is because the Assistant Principal is employed as a school year calendar employee not a year calendar employee.

- Business Office- Mary Henry explained that they needed to add more hours to the business office because a reduction in hours was made in the accounts payable dept and the work was not able to be completed

- Custodial Staff- Ian Spencer explained that there are four (4) full time custodians and one (1) part time custodian. Feels that the school was not being kept as he would prefer and that he was not able to fill the positions with the pay rate that was being offered.

- Cafeteria changes- Ben asked about the school contracting out the cafeteria services. Mary explained that the school has contracted the Abbey Group for the food service and that the employees work for the Abbey Group not Winchester School.

- Discussion about how many current school employees- Ben asked why there were more employees than last year giving the number of Teachers that have retired and the cafeteria employees were no longer employed by the school. It was agreed to return to the discussion at the next budget meeting.

-Capital Reserve Grant- There were questions and concerns over how the grant would be put into the budget. Ben would like to see the grant added to the revenue. Kevin addressed his concern that this would give the perception that the town was asking for \$800,000- when it was a grant not coming from Tax payers. It was agreed to continue the conversation at the next meeting.

**This meeting was held as an open question/ answer forum and no motions were made on the budget.**

**\*NEXT MEETING DEC 17Th -6:00 PM -SCHOOL LIBRARY \***

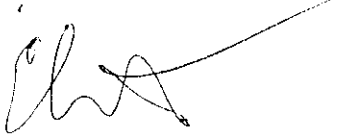
**DEC 19Th \* IF NEEDED 7:00 PM SCHOOL LIBRARY**

Motion to Adjourn - Ben - second Theresa - 5/0 motion passes  
5/0 motion passes

**JAN 14TH 6:00 PM BUDGET COMMITTEE WARRANT ARTICLE TOWN HALL**  
**Public Hearing 6 PM- Warrant Articles to follow**

**FEB 6th SCHOOL DELIBERATIVE (THURSDAY)**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Rhodes December 15, 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JR' with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.