

Sunapee School Board Budget Work Session

SMHS Media Center

November 15, 2017

Call to Order:

School Board Chair Skarin called the budget work session to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call:

Paul Skarin

Brian Garland - Absent

Edward Andersen

Jesse Tyler

April Royce - Absent

Others Present:

Russell Holden, Superintendent

Terra Geer, Director of Student Services

Kelly Wessells, Business Administrator

Public:

Superintendent Holden noted that **Mary Hillier**, Sunapee resident, was in attendance as she is thinking about becoming the alternate member on the Advisory Budget Committee.

Review of 2018-2019 Budget

Superintendent Holden gave the following presentation to the Board (Please see all handouts noted attached):

- Explained the budget development process.
- The SAU has tried to hone in on expenses over the last three years to budget with accurate figures.
- The budget being presented is currently at a 2.05% increase.
- Noted that the “note” function, usually used at the school level to show line detail, was not used due to a malfunction.
- Gave the following handouts:
 - Overview narrative of the budget from each administrator
 - High school profile

- State proficiency scores of standardized testing
- Definition of IDEA and 504 plans
- Tax analysis for school portion of taxes
- Tax history over the last 10 years
- Tax comparisons with other comparable towns
- Valuations of property tax assessments and tax rates of the District from 2006-2007 and 2016-2017
- FY2019 Adequate Education Aid explanation – what it is and how it works
- Estimated FY19 Adequacy Aid for Sunapee
 - Noted that the District receives no money from the State. The District does receive some federal grants.
 - The community raises almost all money for the schools.
- Revenue from tuition and preschool
- Health insurance
 - There is a 2% increase for the 2018-2019 school year
 - Teachers pay 20%, support staff pays 12% which represents a 1% increase
 - Salaries and health insurance are set costs at \$250K. Overall the budget is up by \$234K
- SAU 85 operating costs
- Cost per pupil by district in 2015-2016
- Transportation Director narrative and inventory of buses
- Backup information for purchasing of new copiers
- 2018-2019 possible warrant articles

Jesse asked how the SCES safety issues, including the preschool trailer, and other educational issues were being addressed in the budget. Superintendent Holden stated that work at SCES has not been built into the budget.

Superintendent Holden stated that the 2017-2018 budget is coming under budget. He gave credit to Director of Student Services Geer for bringing most out-of-district students back in district, thus saving money for the district. Otherwise, seven to eight students would have been sent out this year.

Chair Skarin and Jesse both felt that Director of Student Services Geer's work should be noted to the public.

Superintendent Holden noted that the SAU is looking at sharing the programs, made for these students, with other school districts who are doing the same thing or using the programs to bring in tuition revenue.

Superintendent Holden stated there is a narrative for each section of the budget in the budget book given to the Board.

He noted that the online tutoring system “Ingenuity” that the Board approved for purchase last year has worked great and has saved the District money.

Proposals:

Superintendent Holden recommended the following proposals:

- **Purchasing of copiers**
 - The current copiers were bought in 2010.
 - There would be five – one at the SAU and two each at the SMHS and SCES. Currently there are seven copiers in the District.
 - With this purchase each building would now have one color copier.
 - He recommends using tuition revenue to purchase rather than lease. The estimated tuition revenue stands at \$140K. The copier purchase is \$80K.
 - Business Administrator Wessells and Superintendent Holden explained that the tuition revenue is part of the fund balance, but that tuition is a separate offshoot that the District can use, while the rest of the fund balance at the end of the year must go back to the town.
 - Doesn’t recommend staggering the purchase of the copiers due to one at SCES already died and the District is now using a loaner.
- **SCES Construction Management**
 - The architects from Harriman have completed their study of SCES and the previous designs.
 - Recommending that the Board approve \$50K be taken from the SCES Capital Reserve Fund to hire an architectural firm to begin construction management.
- **SCES Main Office**
 - The architects have recommended safety changes to the SCES main office, including putting a buzzer system in the vestibule, moving the office to the teacher’s room, and then moving the teacher’s room to where the main office is currently.
 - He is recommending the Board move to approve taking \$55K from the SCES Capital Reserve Fund.

- Noted that the Governor set-aside \$19M for infrastructure and security for schools. Superintendent Holden applied and has been contacted by the State. They may fund \$20K towards the project.
- **SMHS Art Room Remodel**
 - Five years ago, NEASC stated that the art room needed to be remodeled.
 - He is recommending the Board ask for \$70K for the remodel.
 - The new art teacher has innovative ideas to work within the space to keep the costs down.
 - The biggest cost is for asbestos removal in the floor. Superintendent Holden would also like to remove, at the same time, the asbestos in the small tile areas of the Family Consumer Science room. If done, the only other areas would be the nurse's office and the janitor's closet.
 - The remodel could be put forth in a warrant article or out of the capital reserve fund. Chair Skarin stated his opinion is for the money to come out of the capital reserve fund.

Superintendent Holden stated the capital reserve funds are currently:

- Special Education - \$330K
- SCES - \$140K
- SMHS - \$186K
- SMHS Roof - \$150K
- 2.5% Catastrophic - \$250K

Superintendent Holden then asked to show the SMHS art and family consumer science rooms to the Board members.

Adjournment:

Jesse Tyler moved to adjourn at 7:36 p.m.

Edward Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Kate O'Connor

School Board Secretary