

**Meeting of the
Candia Municipal Budget Committee
Dec. 9, 2015
Moore Elementary School Library, Candia, NH**

Members Present: Chair Allyn Chivers, Dana Buckley, Mark Laliberte, Paul Leblond, Robert Stout, Selectman's Rep. Carleton Robie

Members Absent: Matthew Broadhead, Kevin Coughlin, School Board Rep. Rebecca Cronk

Also present: Dr. Charles Littlefield, superintendent, Marge Polak, asst. superintendent, Karen Lessard, business administrator, Robert St. Cyr, principal, Michelle Lavalley, asst. principal, Kathryn Duncan, director of student services, Nicole Laflamme, school board chair, Matthew Woodrow, school board member

Chair Chivers opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Answer questions from previous meeting

After an introduction of the Municipal Budget Committee (MBC) members and members of the audience, Lynn Chivers stated that there were six questions that the MBC had for the Board of School Committee and staff of SAU 15:

1. Why are the health insurance lines so high? How do you project the insurance amounts when you do not know the rates for the 2016-17 school year?

Lessard stated they already have the insurance amounts for the 2016-17 school year from the insurance company and those are the amounts they are using. Much of the increase is a result of changes employees have made by adding members to their plans or joining the existing plans. Robie stated that he felt the insurance rates were high, much more so than for the town. Littlefield said that they plan to negotiate with the teachers a change in insurance that would maintain similar level of insurance at a lower rate. This will be due to changes in the ACA insurance law on Jan. 1, 2018. In the interim, there will be an article for a one-year contract on the March 2016 school district warrant. The goal is to then agree to a three-year contract and have that placed on the March 2017 school district warrant.

2. How much is being budgeted per student for public high school?

The 2016-17 tuition cost for Manchester Central High school is \$10,800 per student. Chivers asked if this included the capitol costs. Lessard stated the capitol costs are an additional \$199,915, which brings the cost per student to \$12,159.97.

3. How many projected high school students for the 2016-17 school year?

Lessard stated they are projecting 147 regular education high school students.

4. What is the reason for the \$15,574 increase to the SAU?

Lessard stated that the majority of the increase comes from Candia's share of a new \$80,000 software system that the SAU is installing. Chivers asked about the public notice that showed an

increase in fringe benefits and wanted to know what the fringe benefits are? The SAU representatives did not know what that was but said they would get the information for the MBC.

5. How did you compute the salary increases for the principal and assistant principal? Historically, what have their increases been?

Littlefield stated the principal and assistant principal both get 2 percent wage increases. This money comes from the wage pool and they feel this is necessary to keep these wages competitive with others in the area. Historically they have received 2 percent per year. Lessard said she felt their salary was on the low average as compared to the rest of the state. Littlefield stated the administration were getting standard increases in good years, but have gone without increases in bad years.

6. What are the school's sources of income beside what is received from property taxes?

Lessard stated the additional sources of income come from bus passes, adequacy aid, catastrophic aid, Medicaid and the after school program. The total from all these other sources is about \$2,000,000 per year.

Vote on preliminary school budget

Chivers asked if there was any discussion about the budget. There was none.

Motion: To recommend the budget as presented by the Candia School Board of \$7,801,855.06. (1st – Leblond, 2nd – Stout) **Passed 6-0.**

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn (1st – Laliberte, 2nd – Leblond) **Passed 6-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.