

Town of Candia

Budget Committee

Approved Meeting Minutes

November 24, 2025

Moore School Media Room

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Lynn Chivers, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joint meeting of Budget Committee with School Board and SAU 15: Lynn Chivers, Chair. Katrina Niles, William Saffie, Ryan Young, Susan Gill, Susan Young, Steve Tremblay, Joshua Reap, Stephanie Helmig, Sch. Bd. rep.; School Board & SAU 15 present: Becky Wing, Principal, Stacey Eaton, Director of Student services, Cindy Bourgeault, Business Admin. SAU 15, William Rearick, Superintendent SAU 15, Meredith Wilson, School Bd., Mark Chalbeck, School Bd., Heather Tremblay, School Bd.

Old Business: Approval of minutes from Nov. 12 meeting- Bill made a motion to approve the minutes, Susan Y. seconded. Josh abstained, All in favor. Motion passed. Motion to approve Nov. 17 meeting minutes-Steve made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Susan G. seconded. Katrina and Josh abstained. All in favor. Motion passed.

Questions regarding school budget-What is the cost for high school transportation? $\$558.37 / \text{day} \times 180 \text{ days} \times 2 \text{ busses} = \$201,013.20$.

What year did parents stop paying for transportation? It was the 2017-2018 school year.

What are we paying per child for high school? For 2025-26 - \$17,226., 2026-27 \$17,910. (estimated increase of 3.97%).

Regular Ed. – teacher salaries (line 5112)-How many teachers are included in this line? Specifically, classroom teachers and what are other jobs of the remaining teachers? There are 20 regular classroom teachers for grades K-8, 2 reading interventionists, 1 math interventionist, 1 PE/health teacher, 1 art teacher, 1 Spanish teacher, 1 music teacher.

Math-practice books (line 5645)- Last years budget was \$3210. And the default this year is 12,800. Do the consumables qualify as a contractual obligation? Reading- same question. Last year's budget was \$966. And the default for this year is \$15,236. The practice books are needed in conjunction with the online subscriptions which are needed to support the curriculum and therefore, would be considered a contractual obligation. In this budget we have broken out the costs to reflect the expenses more accurately.

Question about- what is Wonders? Becky said it is the Reading Program. The Wonders quote is accurate at \$15,236. and includes teacher and student online access, although it is not used in all grades and this could cut the cost. It may not have a big effect because they bundle online with consumables. This was the final year of our six year contract, so this is new to the budget this year. We are working on getting the Math in Focus lowered by purchasing 1 student license at each grade level which gave a drastic savings on the consumable book bundle. Becky is working with their rep. to get that same deal this year. Right now, the quote is \$15,500 with \$12,200 being for consumables. They may be able to lower that number. She will give a more accurate number once she hears back from the rep. Susan Y. asked about that being contractual and the price increase for the new budget? Becky said it is a new year of pricing for the same program. The price difference is because they paid a large sum in the beginning of the program; the \$966. is the final year of the contract. Bill R. said when the new contract is negotiated it will be a contract for 1 year. Bill R. said that they have to sign a contract for it in the default budget.

Ryan asked if there are alternate programs or materials that can be used? Becky said, typically for a change in the curriculum, they would do a pilot of different programs to see what would be the best fit and this can be a couple of years timeframe to process. Bill R. said one of the reasons they go year to year is the State and once they pass the dyslexia regulations, we might have to shift the Wonders program. They want to keep the flexibility if they did have to change it, even though it may be cheaper to do more years for a better rate. Steve asked about if they did have to change the curriculum, would new training for the teachers be required? Bill R. said yes, it would. Becky said also that training is done with Title Two Funding. Lynn asked about Title Two Funding? Becky said it is for professional development. Bill R. added it is one of the Federal Grants. We will

not be getting Title Two Funding anymore. We will get Title Four Funding and also, IDA Grant funding. Title Two is specifically for PD and staff. And that is being cut at the Federal level, not at the State level.

Sue Y. asked if they are using the Math supplemental supplies? Becky said yes, they do. There are some specific things that are used every day in the classrooms.

Bill S. asked about the regular education teacher salaries, you broke it down to 27 teachers- questioned the line items for a PE/Health teacher, and there is a PE/ Athletics separate category. Bill R. said the Athletics is for the sport team athletics and PE is the one that is used in the school. The PE/Health teacher is the PhysEd teacher. The health is a separate category and is the Nurse. Susan Y. asked if the nurse is on the teacher's contract also? Bill R. answered yes.

Steve questioned about \$65,862.55 per teacher if he averaged out the teacher salaries.? Bill S. pointed out some teachers make more than others. Bill R. yes that is averaged out mathematically, but some teachers are being paid on Step 1 or 2 and others could be Step 14. Lynn asked if the Reg Teacher Ed. does not include Special Ed. teachers. Stacey pointed out that averaging all the expenses does not include Special Ed students. The regular tuition is 17,000. Susan Y. asked if Becky has the figures for the costs for Spec. Ed.? Stacey replied there is additional \$9,900 for resource on top of tuition, for the program \$29,736. The New England Children's Center program is \$38,966. without the Para. Ryan asked for a rough idea of the percentage of students. Stacey said for K-8, they are currently at 14.8%, which may go up slightly. The state is at 19.9% Ryan asked how many students ? At Pinkerton there are 9 students. Steve had a question about the dyslexia program. Stacey said the Dyslexia program is used to identify students that are at risk and have early intervention, although it may not be a disability. Children with special needs can have the early intervention. There is special transportation for Special Ed students and ones with disabilities.

New Business: Looking at the new budget-\$11,943,420. Stephanie said they do not have the warrant articles yet. Warrant articles for the school must be submitted by Dec 3rd. Bill makes a motion to make a 3% increase over last year's budget. Budget for this year is \$11,113,465 with a 3% increase =\$11,446,868.95. That comes out to a \$333,444. Increase. Susan G seconded the motion. Discussion of various ways might be able to cut costs. One idea that Katrina had is to tell

parents that if they want to do parent drop off, they should have to buy a permit to put in the car window. It was agreed that is a good idea. It would help with the traffic congestion in the morning. Question about needing 2 school buses if they are not ridden. Stephanie said logistically, they do have to have 2 buses for the students and it is a state mandate to provide transportation for students. Other ideas, Susan Y. suggested cutting back on the buses expense for high school. Stephanie said they do have the ridership for high school. Sue said going back to paying for a ride card could be an option. Susan G. asked how many secretaries are working in the office? Stephanie said there 1 full-time and 1 part-time. Special Ed. has 1 full-time. Susan Y asked about Zoom. Stephanie replied they do not utilize zoom. They have an online program that costs the town \$30,000. that was voted on. Camera and microphones in front of each person. Susan Y. pointed out that they can not interact. Stephanie said public comment can be emailed to the schoolboard or Bill R. The meetings are live and recorded. Public comment time for the emails to be addressed is allowed in the beginning of the schoolboard meeting and at the end and it can become part of the minutes.

Ryan asked about the data communications being a huge increase. Stephanie said they are tied into the Comcast internet with the Hooksett school and they might get a discount already. She is going to find out more information about internet and phones. Josh suggested shopping around for other options available and get better deals.

Josh also has a question about the tuition reimbursement being contractual? (Line 5241) Under principal services, tuition reimbursement, is there some discretionary amount that can be taken out? The \$2,000. workshop be taken out for a year? Also, under professional services \$31,000. would that be for the school resource officer and do we have one?

A vote was taken on the motion for the 3% increase: 6 yes/3 no. Motion carries and can be revised later.

Steve made a motion to adjourn. Susan G. seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Lewis, Admin assist.