

HUDSON SCHOOL DISTRICT
Hudson School Board Meeting
April 29, 2013
Approved Minutes

Present

Mrs. Laura Bisson, Chair
Mr. Lee Lavoie, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Patty Langlais
Dr. Amy Sousa
Mr. Michael Truesdell
Mr. Bryan Lane, Superintendent
Dr. Phyllis Schlichter, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Jeanne Saunders, Director of Special Services
Ms. Karen Burnell, Business Administrator
Mr. Connor Sakati, AHS Student Representative

- A. **Call to Order:** Mrs. Laura Bisson, Board Chair, called the meeting to order and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 pm.
This is a workshop meeting regarding the Default Budget only.

- B. **Public Input**
Regarding Default Budget only.
There was no public input.

- C. **Default Budget**
Mr. Lane addressed the board.
The board had previously discussed the possibility of creating an alternative budget which would go back to the voters. Unfortunately, it is not possible to meet the deadline which is set by law before July. If we went forward with this alternate budget now, it would create more issues such as supplemental tax bills for town residents. At this point, it is better to move ahead with the default budget and make the necessary cuts.
The memo that was distributed contains the administration's recommendations on how to handle the default budget.
Ms. Saunders totally redid the entire Special Education budget prior to tonight.
Mrs. Langlais stated that in the future it is necessary to always have a Plan B in case this ever happens again. The board was in agreement.

The board began discussions using handouts provided them: a memo and spreadsheet which defined the proposed cuts. These cuts will create a surplus of \$7,725.

Mrs. Burnell stated there has been a deficit of \$140,000 due to health insurance changes. Mrs. Langlais asked administration if it was possible for a volunteer to purchase an item that was cut (i.e., textbooks) for the district. Answer: Yes, the item(s) would simply require acceptance as a donation by the board.

Some building memberships and SERESC dues (\$14,565) have been removed from the budget.

Two full-time teacher positions will not be filled.

Mrs. Langlais moved to have the late bus at HMS and AHS run three days a week second by Mr. Lavoie. Motion passes 4-0-1 (Dr. Sousa abstained).

This item had been reduced to two days at a previous meeting.

The board discussed out-of-district ghost placement. The district is not prepared for any new out-of-district placements due to default budget.

The board discussed the two laptops for Special Education Department Chair at Hills Garrison at a cost of \$1,500. Also stated that there are computers in the Trustees' Budget. Their meeting is scheduled for this Thursday.

The board discussed class sizes for the 13-14 school year.

Grade 1 --- 18.2

Grade 2 --- 19.3 (HGS) and 18.6 (NHW)

Grade 3 --- 23.6 (HGS) and 24.1 (NHW)

Grade 4 --- 21.2 (HGS) and 21.7 (NHW)

Grade 5 --- 22.6 (HGS) and 22.5 (NHW)

Mr. Sakati stated he has met with Student Council and they believe that it would be a detriment if extracurricular activities were cut from the budget.

Mr. Lane stated that any unexpended money at the end of the current school year could be put toward offsetting the default budget cuts. We will have a better idea of what the number will be by June 1.

The board discussed which are more important, teacher positions or technology, and what the right mix is for the district.

Various points of emphasis for maintaining teacher positions were advocated by Dr. Sousa.

Mr. Lavoie felt that once technology was removed from the budget we could not get it back.

The board discussed the upcoming redistricting budget issue: there is a moving/stipend budget of \$10,000 to \$18,000. Dr. Sousa discussed some of these proposed cuts don't fit in with our desire to expand our Special Education and Early Childhood Center.

Athletic transportation – \$5,000: Discussed if charging athletes for transportation was possible. Yes, but it would be in the future, would not be the upcoming school year. The district has seen savings for transportation with the new activity bus.

HOS/HGS library – book replacement: With the redistricting, all libraries will have books to meet the needs of the children.

Mr. Truesdell inquired about using the CTE funds to help offset costs.

Revenue from all CTE classes goes into a revolving fund and can be used for supplies and equipment.

The district does cost-saving audits yearly for all contracts.

Mrs. Langlais moved to accept the proposed budget memo of April 29 , Default Budget, second by Mr. Lavoie for discussion.

Discussed putting money into either a ghost account or a school board holding account. Technology for Hills Garrison, Nottingham West and Alvirne equals \$17,253.

Mr. Lavoie withdrew his second; Mrs. Langlais withdrew her motion.

Amended Motion:

Mrs. Langlais moved to accept the budget memo of April 29 and put \$17,253 into a school board holding account, second by Mr. Lavoie. Motion passes 4-1. (Dr. Sousa voted no.)

Comment by Mr. Lavoie: The school board has managed to keep the budget intact; please remember that we will not be able to do this again next year. Please remember to vote next year.

D. Adjourn:

Dr. Amy Sousa moved to adjourn at 8:15 second by Mrs. Langlais. Motion passes 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dotty Murray