

Q: Questions asked A: Answered S: Statement made

All Board members present with the exception of Darryl Sanborn & Carol Bachofner, Carol was an excused absence.

Tess noted that she had spoken with Connie Brown, the Executive Director for Maine School Management Association and Connie indicated a Budget Committee cannot take action, only the School Board can take action. Tess went on to say she would use straw polls during meeting to get a sense of where the Budget Committee stood on various parts of the budget

Tess went around the Committee asking each to comment on any parts of the budget they wished to discuss further.

S: Noted by one member have not looked at transportation options such as contracting out
The middle school mergers needs to be studied and a recommendation by the end of November
Do not support any staff cuts
Endorse the proposed new position for a Development Director
Do not support the safety package

Q: Can't we defer the computer leases until July and designate the money not spent this year as carry forward fund balance to use next year?

A: Scott Vaitones responded the intent for the past 4 years in technology has been to develop a fairly flat constant funding level. The current proposal does that. Deferring what is to be purchased this year would put us out of that cycle and mean we would have to double the expense in order to stay current the following year.

S: Feel the Development Director position should be deferred for a year
Feel the safety package should be deferred by a year

S: Need to look to see if there may be errors in the budget that would result in savings.

A: Scott Vaitones responded it is a very big document with complex formulas. However, I feel any errors that have not been flushed out are very small at this point. And, as I do anytime I open a cost center, I will look at the formulas to be sure they are intact.

S: Could support a 2% overall tax impact

S: Could support a 2% and live with a 3% tax impact

S: Whatever we pass on to the taxpayers, needs to be supported by the towns

Q: I question the per pupil allocation for school supplies as the schools also list specific request

A: Any specific request have been reduced from the per pupil allocation. Some principals have chosen to identify specific needs by grade level.

S: Last year's per pupil allocation was only \$125 and this year is \$200.

A: The year before last the allocation was \$230 per pupil and was drastically cut last year. And, the \$200 per pupil was reduced a couple weeks ago to \$180 per pupil. All student counts have been adjusted to the March enrollment.

Q: Can't we bring in money for billing out some of special education services to Medicare?

S: Yes, eventually, however, there are some pieces of the program that need to be strengthened and the income should only be considered in the year following the receipt of it, not the year it may or may not be earned.

S: Lew noted that we have a very high rate of identified special education needs. We currently have over 21% of the students identified as needs special education services. The State average is about 15%

Q: Doesn't the RTI (intervention services) help reduce the need for special education services?

S: It should how RTI is used from school to school is very inconsistent and we are working on improving the model.

Q: Do we get reimbursed from the State for the bus purchases and if so how?

A: If the bus was a State approved purchase, we get reimbursed the following year. For a leased to purchase bus, we would get a payment each of the next 4 years. A few years back, a State approved bus meant we got 100% of the principal cost back. We are now actually only getting about 65%. It is difficult at best to dissect the State funding formula to see what and how much subsidy is applied to various parts of the formula. We receive the reimbursement in our State subsidy

Q: How many staff reductions have there been each year since the RSU was formed?

S: The first year of the RSU there were a number of administrative positions eliminated: 1 Superintendent, 1 Curriculum Director, 1 Special Education Director, 1 Transportation Director, 1 Facilities Director, 1 Food Service Director and 3 or 4 support staff positions.

The second year of the RSU, the two high schools were emerged and there was a reduction of over 30 positions, many were teachers and ed techs

Last year there were six teacher positions eliminated and 8 ed tech positions and reduction in administrative assists hours in some schools.

All of the positrons eliminated have been the result of duplication of services and shrinking enrollments.

Q: Could we use some of the oil reserve account next year?

A: Yes

Straw vote was taken to use \$100,000 of the \$200,000 fund.	Yes	No	
Nancy Jeffers	1		
Arvilla Collins	1		
Christine Curtis	1		
Sally Carlton	1		
Bill Pearce		1	
Loren Andrews			abstain
Tess Kilgour	1		
Darryl Sanborn			absent
Don Robishaw	1		
George Emery	1		
Carol Bachofner			absent
Sherm Hoyt			abstain
total	7	1	

Q: How much do substitute teachers get paid per day?

A: \$80 per day and if more than 20 consecutive days the rate goes to \$180 per day.

S: It appears that we budget well over 10 days per teacher.

A: Scott responded that he has increase the amount budgeted for substitutes and the current year will exceed what has been budgeted for next year.

Q: Have we looked at short term disability vs. paying sick days?

A; Have not explored it deeply. Have seen districts pay the cost per employee for short term disability and offer very few sick days. The advantage is a fixed cost for the short term disability coverage that can be budged vs. the unknown number of substitute days needed every year.

Public Comment:

Lee Fox spoke identifying himself as a network administrator by training and currently working for Mid-Coast School of Technology (MCST) as the Assistant Adult Education site Director. He asked for access to the District's technology budget so that he may be able to help us save in some areas.

S: A Board member commented that the MLTI laptops can't communicate via the network at MCST. Mr. Fox acknowledged that was a big issue.

S: A Board member feels supplies should be reduced to \$175 per pupil and library book allocation form \$29 per pupil to \$15. Reduce athletics by \$8,000, eliminate the school safety package \$133,000 and use \$100,000 from the fuel reserve

The School safety package includes replacing the Oceanside High School-east intercom system. The system is over 50 years old and starting to fail. It was noted that yesterday the all-call stopped working. A repair person is due in today.

Low and Scott will have more information by next week on the bets options for the intercom system

S: Feel we can phase in the safety package and maybe find someone right now to write a grant to help fund some of the package.

A: Scott explored a recent Homeland Security grant and found the staff training we needed to have was not going to be possible in the time period and was going to be expensive.

Straw Poll: Do a lease to purchase for the school Safety package	Y	n	
Nancy Jeffers	1		
Arvilla Collins	1		
Christine Curtis	1		
Sally Carlton	1		
Bill Pearce	1		
Loren Andrews		1	
Tess Kilgour	1		
Darryl Sanborn			absent
Don Robishaw		1	
George Emery		1	
Carol Bachofner			absent
Sherm Hoyt	1		
total	7	3	

S: Concern that the College Readiness Assessment testing was cut

Straw Poll: Add back the College Readiness Assessment \$11,000	Y	n	
Nancy Jeffers		1	
Arvilla Collins		1	
Christine Curtis		1	
Sally Carlton		1	
Bill Pearce	1		
Loren Andrews	1		
Tess Kilgour		1	
Darryl Sanborn			absent
Don Robishaw		1	
George Emery	1		
Carol Bachofner			absent
Sherm Hoyt	1		
total	4	6	

S: The Athletic budget has not been touched. The only reduction is the result of not having to order uniforms. Suggest we cut 10%.

Straw vote cut 10% from athletics	Y	n	
Nancy Jeffers		1	
Arvilla Collins	1		
Christine Curtis		1	
Sally Carlton		1	
Bill Pearce		1	
Loren Andrews		1	
Tess Kilgour		1	
Darryl Sanborn			absent
Don Robishaw	1		
George Emery		1	
Carol Bachofner			absent
Sherm Hoyt		1	
total	2	8	

Straw Poll: Cut the proposed Development Director	Y	n	
Nancy Jeffers		1	
Arvilla Collins		1	
Christine Curtis		1	
Sally Carlton		1	
Bill Pearce		1	
Loren Andrews	1		
Tess Kilgour		1	
Darryl Sanborn			absent
Don Robishaw		1	
George Emery		1	
Carol Bachofner			absent
Sherm Hoyt		1	
total	1	9	

Low noted the ½ Special Education teacher at St. George has been restored back into the proposed budget

S: Need to be sure core subjects are not being cut at the high school

Straw Poll: Hold budget to a 4% or less tax impact	Y	n	
Nancy Jeffers	1		
Arvilla Collins	1		
Christine Curtis	1		
Sally Carlton	1		
Bill Pearce			abstained
Loren Andrews	1		
Tess Kilgour	1		
Darryl Sanborn			absent
Don Robishaw	1		
George Emery		1	
Carol Bachofner			absent
Sherm Hoyt		1	
total	7	2	

The Wednesday, April 24th meeting was cancelled

Next meeting will be the May 2nd Regular Board meeting where action will be taken to adopt the budget.

A Special Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 9th to sign warrants.