

BUDGET COMMITTEE Town of Hollis

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Minutes of February 10, 2015

Meeting was held in the Community Room, Hollis Town Hall. The Budget Committee was called out of recess by Tom Gehan at 7:04 PM.

Members present: Tom Gehan, Mike Harris, Frank Whittemore, Chris Hyde, Tom Jambard, Susan Benz, Rosemary Mezzocchi - Hollis School Board Rep, Frank Cadwell - Selectman Others present: Robert Mann – Hollis School Board, Tammy Fareed – Hollis School Board, James O'Shea – Hollis School Board, Andrew Corey – Superintendant, Eric Horton – SAU Business Administrator

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Tom G. stated that this meeting is a continuation of the Hollis School District Budget Public Hearing from February 4. The BudCom went into recess on February 4th in order to allow the School Board to take a position on Article 4 prior to the BudCom taking a position.

Eric H. stated that the School Board had taken a position on all articles and supports all articles as presented.

Mike H. made a motion to reopen the public session with the intent to receiving comment on Article 4. Chris H. seconded. All voted in favor. Motion was approved 8-0-0.

<u>Article 4</u>. To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of <u>\$10,252,996</u> for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the school district officials and agents and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district. This appropriation does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles.

Estimated Gross Tax Impact - \$8.53/\$1,000

Robert M. reviewed the School Board's position on the Spanish program over the past several years. Andrew C. discussed the budget process and conflicting priorities including more science programs, full day kindergarten, and the desire to reduce taxes resulting from bond retirements. He stated that both HPS and HUES will have a full time principal and reviewed the staffing for the 6th grade class. Susan B. asked about the feasibility of hiring part time Spanish professionals. Andrew C. replied that while the cost would be less the limitations on the time in a school day create scheduling conflicts with math, reading and science. Mike H. asked if the staffing for FY16 was in place or if additional training would be required. Andrew C. stated that most professionals would be ready.

Public Input:

Tiffany Testa (Mooar Hill Rd.) asked to increase the budget \$185K to maintain the Spanish program. She expressed concern that the program's elimination was based solely on budget constraints. Michelle St. John (Orchard Dr.) asked if Brookline had eliminated its Spanish program and if that impacts the decision for Hollis. Andrew C. stated that Brookline had also cut Spanish and that this decision did not affect Hollis. Ms. Testa asked if the Curriculum Coordinator position was included in the budget. Andrew C. confirmed that it is included. Ms. Testa asked if the focus will be on applicants that specialize in math or science. Andrew C. answered yes.

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Mike H. made a motion to close the public hearing. Tom J. seconded. All voted in favor. Motion was approved 8-0-0.

<u>Article 4</u>: Mike H. made a motion that the BudCom recommend this article. Motion was seconded by Susan B. There was discussion that time constraints and other program needs were also factors in the decision to eliminate Spanish. It was reiterated that this is not solely a budgetary decision.

Susan B. – Yea, Tom G. – Yea, Mike H. – Yea, Chris H. – Yea, Tom J. – Yea, Frank W. – Yea, Rosemary M. – Yea, Frank C. – Yea

Motion carried 8-0-0

Upcoming meetings were discussed. It was decided to keep the March 10th meeting on the calendar.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mike H. Chris H. seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Winsor, Tax Collector