

Suffield Board of Education
Budget Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2014 – 7:30 a.m.
Central Office Conference Room

Present: Scott Schneider, Natalie Semyanko, Jeanne Gee, Bob Eccles, Lori D'Ostuni (arrived at 8:01 a.m.), Mary Roy (via telephone), Karen Baldwin, Phil Russell, Jim Collin

I. Call to Order: 7:35 a.m.

II. Budget Process and Communications

- A review of FTE assigned to each grant (requested by Board). Board Chair Eccles requested this information be included as an attachment to the minutes.
- The Choice Grant and increasing the number of choice students in the Suffield program as compared to other participating districts and the cost/grant revenues present in the program was discussed.

III. Review of Utilities Account

- Current accounts and long-term contracts on rates were discussed.
 - Natural gas
 - Propane
- New numbers for electricity are based on 0.10 per kilowatt hour. The \$120,000 savings assumption through the Energy Management Grant (2012) is being dropped because those savings are not being realized.
- A Facilities subcommittee meeting is scheduled with Power Point on February 10, 2014.
- A letter was sent to CL&P requesting justification for rates and rate setting.
- Three-year electrical contract: moved by ACCE to our budget in Year 2 (this year) and Year 3 (next year). The Board is requesting, per ACCE and Town procedures, to keep most of the commitment of funds as a priority in the ACCE budget as carry over.
- The Grand List is up 1.6%

IV. Review of Purchased Services & Professional Services

- Up 6.5% year-to-date (before administrative adjustments - coming later today)
- Two items represent predominance of increase:
 - Game officials
 - Reclassified FTE (Nurse for out-of-district student with special needs)
- Budget work internally has been focused on attaching projected budget needs directly to past actual expenses.

- We will be re-engaging our membership in CABA.
- Legal fees fluctuate and the proposed budget will reflect a non-adjusted number for the 2014/2015 budget.

V. Discussion of Food Service

- The Board budgets a subsidy each year (\$48,000)
- Reviewed budget revenues from Food Service since partnering with Sodexo
 - 3 out of 4 years, the Board has paid a shortfall and insurance for Sodexo, resulting in a \$50,000 to \$90,000 deficit in fiscal years 2011/2012, 2012/2013, and 2013/2014.
- Discussed the negotiations with Food Service and future options for the program based on the perpetual financial shortfall.
- 2014/2015 budget work during these conversations and negotiations with union employees.

Future Agenda Items:

Technology

Facilities

Substitute Account

Personnel and Benefits

The next budget subcommittee meeting will take place on February 11, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in the Central Office Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned: 9:20 a.m.