

New Hartford Board of Education
Regular Meeting – Tuesday, February 19, 2019
MPR Room – Antolini School @ 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Chairman Tim Goff, Jenn Benaitis, Penny Miller, Tom Buzzi, Tim Klepps, Kelly O'Dell-Longhi, Karl Hermonat, Pat Spaziani, Superintendent of Schools Brian Murphy, Antolini School Principal Amanda Shaw, Bakerville & New Hartford Elementary Schools Principal Kelly Carroll, Director of Student Services Barbara McLean, Jen Harris, various school administrators and teachers.

ABSENT: Stacie Cull

Chairman Goff opened the meeting at 7:01 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair to Select Order of Business

Mr. Goff added under New Business the New Hartford Education Fund's Spring Fling Fundraiser.

Consent Agenda:

MOTION: by Miller to approve the Consent Agenda which is the approval of Minutes from the February 5, 2019 meeting. Seconded by Hermonat.

Aye: Goff, Benaitis, Miller, Buzzi, Klepps, O'Dell-Longhi, Hermonat; Abstained: Spaziani.

Motion passes

Public Comment:

None

Communication to the Board of Education

None

Old Business

Budget 2019-2020

The 2019-2020 New Hartford Board of Education had been presented to the board at a previous meeting. Chairman Goff suggested that we go page by page to address any concerns and questions.

The 2019-2020 Superintendent's Proposed Budget Summary Increases shows a Total Budget Increase of \$392,271 (4.93%), which includes Increases I Special Education Costs of \$218,000 (55.58%), Salary Increases \$130,833 (33.35%) and Remaining Increases of \$43,438 (11.07%). Supt. Murphy said there is very little discretionary spending. The big drivers are Special Education and Salary Increases. Mr. Goff said in the 4.93% overall increase - 2.74% is the special education, 1.65% in salaries and 0.55% is the remaining increase. He would like to see it further broken down when presented to the Board of Finance.

In the Budget Summary the increase in Special Education is the salary for the nurse required for the coming year.

For the coming year there are 47 children interested in attending Kindergarten. Of those 47 children 21 have completed their paperwork.

The New Hartford Per Pupil Expenditure of \$17,290 comes from the state and is based on last year's budget. Special Education and CREC students are included in this number. Compared to the surrounding towns of Barkhamsted, Region 7, Colebrook, Hartland, Norfolk and Winchester we are the lowest.

Service Contracts

These contracts were reviewed. Ms. Spaziani asked if a contract was \$10,000 or above did it then go out to bid. Supt. Murphy said that was correct. She then asked if more research was done by not using local companies could we save more money. Mr. Goff said going forward the board would work with Supt. Murphy to find significant cost savings. Supt. Murphy also said that some of these contracts are multi-year contracts and we need to wait for them to expire.

On Maintenance for the 3 schools, Ms. Benaitis questioned the price for mulch compared to last year's budget. She said that last year the price for mulch at Bakerville was \$700 and this year it is \$2700. New Hartford Elementary mulch last year was \$1000 and this year it is \$4500. She asked if there was some way to scale it back. She asked if the numbers this year were place-holders. Mr. Murphy said that these line items have been quoted and this is the actual cost. The cost also depends on the depth of the mulch. This cost also includes the company distributing the placement of the mulch. Mr. Murphy will compare this year's mulch area to last year's area.

Pension Fund – the increase of 10.2% is because our cost share is going up. This is split with the town.

Mr. Murphy will check into the Fuel Costs. We are billed separately by the fuel company for this cost.

Capital Expenditure Requests

In Technology the amount requested is \$37,000. This number includes 54 new Chrome Books for the 5th graders, 4 Promethean Boards and 1 Chrome Book Cart for one of the elementary school. This cart includes 30 Chrome Books. The Promethean Boards cost \$4,500 each and their placement hasn't been determined. These boards will replace the Smart Boards and the projectors. When Ms. Miller asked if buying the 54 Chrome Books was needed – Mr. Murphy replied that they were needed. Mr. Hermonat asked for more clarification on the Chrome Books. Mr. Murphy said that there are Chrome Book carts for the 3rd & 4th graders. While next year the 5th & 6th graders will have Chrome Books that they can take home.

Intercom/Camera System at Antolini is for the playground at \$18,000.

At Bakerville - \$9,500 to repair the stairs outside the cafeteria and acoustic barriers in the cafeteria/gymnasium - \$9,500.

At New Hartford - a new mower at \$9,500 and \$21,000 for furniture. The furniture includes teacher & student desks and chairs. Mr. Murphy will provide a breakdown list of the furniture at each school. The furniture for Bakerville will be listed under Bakerville.

Ms. Spaziani asked if the Breakfast Program was paying for itself. Mr. Murphy said there are 25-30 children using the program. Also, there is a surplus each month of \$500 - \$600.

Ms. Benaitis stepped out of the meeting at 8:40 pm and returned at 8:41 pm.

Ms. Miller asked Mr. Murphy if he had a list of where cuts could be made as the budget increase is so high. Mr. Murphy replied that he doesn't have a list. Mr. Goff echoed Mr. Murphy remarks by saying going through the budget page by page there isn't a lot of room where substantial cuts could be made. He felt it is in the interest of this board to accept this budget as presented.

MOTION: by Buzzi, second by O'Dell-Longhi to approve for presentation to the Board of Finance the 2019/2020 New Hartford Board of Education budget in the amount of \$8,357,516.

Ms. Benaitis would like to see the number broken down for more clarity. Mr. Murphy will send to the board the clarification that the board requested tonight.

Aye: Buzzi, O'Dell-Longhi, Klepps, Goff, Hermonat, Miller; Opposed: Benaitis, Spaziani.

Motion passes

Capital Expenditure

Mr. Murphy will send out the 5-year Capital Budget to the board members.

Mr. Buzzi requested a line drawing of where the additional parking spaces will be at Bakerville with the removal of the islands. Ms. Benaitis questioned the money previously in the budget for the kitchen renovations for Antolini. Mr. Murphy said a lot has been done over the past few years. Ms. Benaitis requested a list of what is left to be done.

MOTION: by Klepps to approve the Capital Plan of \$104,500, second by Buzzi.

Aye: Buzzi, O'Dell-Longhi, Klepps, Miller, Goff, Hermonat, Spaziani; Abstentions: Benaitis.

Motion passes

Ms. O'Dell-Longhi spoke on the New Hartford PTO Spring Fling to be held on March 23rd, 2019 at Chatterley's Banquet Hall. The money raised by this event is used for items that the teachers need and is not covered by the Board of Education budget. The teachers apply for this money through grants. Part of money raised this year will go towards the renovation of the playgrounds at the New Hartford & Bakerville Elementary Schools.

MOTION: by Miller to adjourn at 9:02 pm, second by Benaitis.

Motion passes

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Miller
Secretary
New Hartford Board of Education