

New Hartford Public Schools
Special Board of Education Meeting
May 16, 2017
7:00 pm/Multi-Purpose Room
Antolini School

Present: Josh Adams, Jenn Benaitis, Cindy Duval Karl Hermonat, Mary Misiorski, Penny Miller, Pat Spaziani, Jen Zenuh Superintendent Brian Murphy

Absent: Staci Cull

A. Chair to Open Meeting: Chairman Jenn Benaitis called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

B. Public Comment:

Chris Barberet (19 Deer Run) addressed her concern with cutting IA positions and their importance in the district. She summarized their duties and the impact that cutting those jobs would have throughout the three schools.

Tim Goff 50 (Birdsview Ave) talked about cutting administrative costs and the town's support for the BOE to do so. He asked the BOE to take a look at administrative costs versus cutting teachers.

Tom Buzzi (Niles Rd) addressed the board about changing the order of future meetings and asked the BOE to consider having public comment available after the board discusses what is on the agenda.

Laura Polakow expressed her concern on how certain budget cuts will impact students directly vs indirectly in regard to cutting teachers over administrative cost. She detailed the importance of the benefits children receive in relation to smaller class sizes. She recommended the reading Student Assault and Aggressive Behavior.

Linda Goff (291 Maple Hollow Rd) asked the Board of Education to stand up to the Board of Finance about the budget cut and gave her support standing behind the BOE if they do.

Kara Desantis (382 Gillett Rd) spoke on different ways the PTO can be utilized to offset costs. She urged the teacher to consider the grants available to them.

Trisha Brett (450 Town Hill Rd) spoke about the unfunded mandates by the state and the possibility of towns telling the state that they can not continue with additional mandates that are unfunded.

C. Review of 2017-2018 budget and possible action on budget

Motion by Jen Zenuh that the BOE endorse the original budget approved on March 7, 2016, second by Penny Miller.

During discussion, Jenn Benaitis reached out to James Fitzgerald, the chairman of the Board of Finance, about what would happen if the BOE did not make any changes to the budget. He informed the BOE that if the budget is returned unchanged there is a possibility that the BOF could impose more cuts,

pending a majority vote, based on additional budget cuts that are being passed down from the state. That budget would then go to referendum. That may or may not have happened but it is a possibility.

Jenn Benaitis also asked First Selectmen Dan Jerram about additional cuts coming this way from the state. He stated that there have been no definitive cuts or consensus on this to date.

After additional discussion Josh Adams made a **motion** to amend Jen Zenuh's original motion to address the operating budget specifically, second by Cindy Duval. Those in favor Karl Hermonat, Cindy Duval, Josh Adams, Pat Spaziani, Mary Misiorski. Opposed Penny Miller Jen Zen. **Motion Passes.**

Amended motion by Jen Zen to leave the operating budget as approved 6 to 2 on March 7, 2017. Those in favor, Penny Miller, Josh Adams, Karl Hermonat, Jen Zenuh. Opposed Jenn Benaitis, Cindy Duval, Pat Spaziani, Mary Misiorski. **Motion Fails.**

Brian Murphy informed the board that Karin Jones submitted her resignation/retirement letter and read part of the letter. He also informed the board that Paula Gladu-Morabito will be resigning at the end of the 2016-2017 school year. Brian summarized the two possible budget reductions based on 2 or 3 teacher salary cuts (see attachment).

Motion by Jen Zenuh to accept the health insurance savings line, second by Karl Hermonat.

After further discussion, **motion** by Karl Hermonat to amend the original motion to include the savings from custodians and district teacher along with the savings from health insurance for a total of \$76K, second by Josh Adams. After additional discussion, a **motion** by Josh Adams to amend the amended motion to include the .5 health position (\$20K) for a total of \$96K, second by Karl Hermonat.

After all discussion, the following motions were voted upon.

Motion by Karl Hermonat to amend the original motion to include the savings from custodians and district teacher along with the savings from health insurance for a total of \$76K, second by Josh Adams. All in favor, **Motion Passes.**

Motion by Josh Adams to amend the amended motion to include the .5 health position (\$20K savings) for a total of \$96K, second by Karl Hermonat. All in favor. **Motion Passes.**

Amended Original Motion by Jen Zenuh to remove .5 health position (20K savings), custodian savings (7K), health insurance savings (10K), and district teacher savings (59K) for a total savings of 96K from the budget, second by Josh Adams. All in Favor. **Motion Passes.**

Motion by Karl Hermonat to approve the new 2017-2018 budget of \$8,040,445, an increase of .64%, second by Jen Zenuh. Those in favor Cindy Duval, Karl Hermonat, Josh Adams, and Jen Zenuh, Penny Miller, opposed Pat Spaziani, Mary Misiorski, Jenn Benaitis. **Motion Passes.**

Motion by Josh Adams to reduce the capital budget of \$20K by cutting the mower and genie light changer, second by Penny Miller. Those in favor Penny Miller, Josh Adams, Jenn Benaitis, Pat Spaziani, Mary Misiorski, Cindy Duval. Opposed Karl Hermonat, Jen Zenuh. **Motion Passes.**

Motion by Jen Zenuh to approve the capital budget of \$57K, second by Penny Miller. All in favor, none opposed. **Motion Passes.**

D. Adjournment

Motion by Jenn Benaitis to adjourn the meeting at 8:40, second by Penny Miller. All in favor, none opposed. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexis Calder

5/18/17