

Town of Hudson Budget Committee Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Minutes of the December 5, 2024 Meeting

A. Call to Order

Chairman Lawrence called the meeting to order in the Buxton Conference Room at Town Hall at 7:00PM and declared a quorum was present.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Lawrence led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Attendance

Members Present: Donna Boucher, Randall Brownrigg, Shawn Jasper, James Lawrence, Kimberly Rice, Kevin Walsh, Richard Weissgarber, Robert Wherry, Selectman (BOS) Liaison Heidi Jakoby, School Board Liaison Grace Kennedy

School District SAU Staff/Others Present:

Superintendent Dr. Daniel Moulis, Assistant Superintendent Jessica Benson, Alvirne High School Principal Steve Beals, Memorial School Principal Keith Bowen

(0:01) D. Public Input

Chairman Lawrence opened Public Input at 7:01PM. With no citizen present for input, declared Public Input closed at 7:02PM.

E. Acceptance of Minutes

Chairman Lawrence recognized Clerk Walsh who noted no minutes were available for review and acceptance.

Chairman Lawrence waived items F: Nominations; G: Reports, H: Old Business and proceeded to move to New Business.

(0:03) I. New Business

Hudson School Board: Proposed FY 26 School Budget.

Chairman Lawrence invited Superintendent Moulis and Alvirne Principal Beals to the table to present the Alvirne High School/CTE Center/Farm budget. Principal Beals explained the goal of a 10% reduction to the non-salary/benefits budget items and responded to questions from the committee on reduction in salaries and benefits due to changes in positions, the bulk of which is contained in 3 positions reduced to \$1, vacancies which had lessened due to the current teacher contract, declining student enrollment, course offerings and graduation requirements. CTE enrollment from outside the district is strong and a desire to have more in-district students enroll in program offerings and associated impact to Tuition.

A question posed regarding the number part-time Paraprofessionals to full-time status was posed as well as the *number of Paraprofessional positions vacant will be reviewed by the Director of Special Services.*

A question was posed regarding the Hudson Logistics Center STEM Exaction and if any planning was underway for that. Principal Beals responded that no planning was currently underway but would be at the appropriate time to impact CTE STEM program offerings to be utilize those funds to offset costs in a variety of STEM-related subjects as well as increase offerings. With no further questions from the committee, Principal Beals left the table.

Mr. Brownrigg asked a question regarding the Default Budget calculation for Leases (Copiers and Postage) and the difference in those figures for the FY25 default and FY26 Addition. The Superintendent will research for the next meeting.

(1:25) Chairman Lawrence then welcomed Memorial School Principal Bowen to the table, joining the Superintendent. Principal Bowen presented the budget overview of the various budget categories and declining enrollment projection for the year. Curriculum alignment and associated texts/materials and software increases.

Committee posed questions regarding staffing and enrollment with the principal noting a reduction of a

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teaching team last year due to enrollment.

The Superintendent will research and present detailed staffing history for all schools given the continued decline in enrollment and aligning resources to meet student needs.

With no further questions from the committee, Principal Bowen left the table.

(2:00) The Superintendent proceeded to review Anticipated Revenue in the budget and responded to questions from the committee regarding State Adequacy Grant, SWEPT Tax, state and federal grants.

(2:43) H: Old Business

Chairman Lawrence wished to review and discuss the current opening on the committee and whether to go forward with filling the position or leaving vacant until the 2025 Town Election. After discussion, Mr. Jasper motioned to leave the position vacant, seconded by Ms. Rice. After discussion, Chairman Lawrence called for a voice vote and passed with Ms. Jakoby voting in the negative.

J: Other Business/Comments

General comments by committee members on the presentations and reminders of the Public Hearing, Deliberative Sessions and Town Voting/Elections dates. Mr. Wherry noted his intended absence for the next meeting.

K. Next Meeting – December 11, 2024 in the Buxton Conference Room

(2:49) L. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Weissgarber, seconded by Ms. Rice. Motion carried on a voice vote. Chairman Lawrence declared the meeting adjourned at 9:49PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Walsh

Clerk

Reference Hudson Community Television video [Budget Committee Meeting - 12/05/2024](#)