

Town of Hudson Budget Committee Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Minutes of the December 19, 2024 Meeting

A. Call to Order

Chairman Lawrence called the meeting to order in the BOS 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, Selectman (BOS) Liaison Heidi Jakoby, School Board Liaison Gary Gasdia

School District SAU Staff/Others Present:

Superintendent Dr. Daniel Moulis, Assistant Superintendent Jessica Benson, Director of Special Services Rachel Borge, Director of Facilities John Pratte, IT Director Kevin Peterson, Elementary Building Principals (ELC) Mary-Ellen Labrie, Theo Tufts (Hills Garrison), Scott Baker (Nottingham West), Memorial School Keith Bowen, (Alvirne High School) Steve Beals

(0:01) D. Public Input

Chairman Lawrence opened Public Input at 7:01PM.

With no other citizen coming forward, the Chairman declared Public Input closed at 7:01PM.

E. Acceptance of Minutes

Chairman Lawrence recognized Clerk Walsh who noted minutes for the December 11 meeting were available for review and acceptance. Ms. Rice moved to accept the minutes as presented with Mr. Jasper seconding. Chairman Lawrence asked for any comments and seeing none called the vote and passed with Mr. Wherry and Mr. Gasdia abstaining.

Chairman Lawrence then requested the committee move to proceed to New Business, waiving items F: Nominations; G: Reports, H: Old Business.

(0:03) I. New Business

Hudson School Board: Proposed FY 26 School Budget.

Chairman Lawrence recognized and invited Superintendent Moulis to the table. Superintendent Moulis referenced handouts addressing previous committee questions and requests, Financial performance as of November 30, and draft of the Warrant Articles. The Superintendent reviewed the previous questions from the committee document regarding the estimated Tax Rate impact for the Budget and Default Budget, timing to finalize the Default Budget, and Legal expense breakdown, recurring versus non-recurring expense and number of Paraprofessional positions.

The Superintendent then addressed anomalies in the salary and benefits reports noting that two such anomalies were identified for correction.

- Mr. Jasper moved and Mr. Weissgarber seconded a motion to reduce Total Benefits Code 110-10112222 from \$31,097 to \$20,134, a reduction of \$10,963. (Reference Tab 9 Elementary Schools Consolidated, page 13, line 124). Motion passed on a voice vote.
- Ms. Rice moved and Mr. Brownrigg seconded a motion to reduce Total Benefits Code 110-10351100 from \$1,148 to \$0, a reduction of \$1,148. (Reference Tab 11 Alvirne High School, page 9, line 29). Motion passed on a voice vote.
- NOTE: these two motions reduces the 2025-2026 School District Budget from \$69,577,219 to \$69,565,108 pending further action by the Budget Committee.

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Chairman Lawrence then questioned the anomalies in the salary and benefits reports, as an example, referencing Tab 9 (Elementary Schools Consolidated) pages 5 and 14 that reflected different totals for those budget elements.

(0:40) After some time reviewing, the Chairman called for a 5 minute recess to allow the Superintendent to review. The meeting was called back to order at 7:45PM.

The Superintendent stated that certain high level 200 Objects are not included in the detail salary and benefits pages, but are properly included in the summary for each reporting entity, for example Workers Comp, Course Reimbursement, additional days worked by staff.

The committee then discussed a variety of challenges in the district budget as presented including appropriate staffing levels, enrollment, class sizes, revenue projection/state adequacy grant/SWEPT. Chairman Lawrence suggested the committee defer final deliberations to the next meeting. With no further comment by committee members, the committee will defer final deliberations to the next meeting scheduled for January 2, 2025. With that Superintendent Moulis left the table, noting the budget is on the hands of the Budget Committee.

(1:46) H: Old Business

None.

J: Other Business/Comments

General comments by committee members on the discussions and respect shown throughout the deliberative process and reminded everyone of the Public Hearings, Deliberative Sessions and Town Voting/Election dates and openings on the governing bodies and other boards and encouraged residents to sign up to run and get involved. Wishes were expressed that everyone enjoy a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and looked forward to the next meeting.

K. Next Meeting – January 2, 2025 in the Buxton Conference Room

(2:17) L. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Brownrigg, seconded by Ms. Rice. Motion carried on a voice vote. Chairman Lawrence declared the meeting adjourned at 9:17PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Walsh

Clerk

Reference Hudson Community Television video [Budget Committee Meeting of 12-19-24](#)