

**Sanborn Regional School District Budget Committee Meeting
November 13, 2014
Approved Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order: 7:35 PM

Attendance:

Bud Com Members:	Barry Gluck, Chair	Allen Felisberto, Vice Chair
	Beth Ann Scanlon	Cheryl Gannon
	Roger Clark	Patty Stephan, Secretary
	Jim Doggett	Nancy Ross, School Board Rep.

Administration: Carol Coppola, Business Administrator
Brian Blake, Superintendent

Public Comment: None

Committee Comment: None

Prior Meeting Minutes: Reviewed and amended.

- Motion: to accept October 30, 2014 meeting minutes as amended (Ms. Ross)
 - Second: Mr. Doggett
 - Vote: 8-0 (motion carried)

School Board Report (Ms. Ross): none (no meeting since last BudCom meeting)

New Business:

- The following Community Outreach initiative suggestions from the previous meeting were discussed:
 - Suggested Initiative 1: Create a SurveyMonkey survey, possibly using the district's account, to ask the public for general information and input. Committee members were asked at the previous meeting to contemplate appropriate questions and to come to this meeting with suggestions. Ms. Gannon proposed a set of questions, which we discussed and amended. Dr. Blake agreed that BudCom could use the district Survey Monkey account. The survey will be open for two weeks and will be posted as soon as possible. The final list of Survey Monkey questions follows:
 1. Where do you live?
 - Newton
 - Kingston
 2. How long have you lived in the district?
 - 0-5 years
 - 6-10 years
 - 15 or more years
 3. Do you have any family members attending school(s) in the district?
 - yes
 - no
 - child(ren) are home schooled
 - child(ren) attend school outside the district: _____
 4. From where do you obtain news about what is happening in your town? (Check all that apply.)
 - family
 - adult friends
 - my child(ren)

- town Facebook page
 - town website (www.newton-nh.gov or www.kingstonnh.org)
 - Carriage Towne News
 - Eagle Tribune
 - Comcast local Cable Access channel
 - district events
 - community bulletin boards
 - none of the above
 - other: _____
5. From where do you obtain news about what is happening our school district? (Check all that apply.)
- family
 - adult friends
 - my child(ren)
 - specific school or class Facebook page(s)
 - district website (www.sau17.org)
 - Carriage Towne News
 - Eagle Tribune
 - Comcast local Cable Access channel
 - district events
 - community bulletin boards
 - Essential News (quarterly district newsletter mailed to residents)
 - Alert Now messages received via telephone
 - none of the above
 - other: _____
6. In the past five years, how many times have you attended Budget Committee public hearings?
- never
 - 1-3 times
 - 4 or more times
 - comment: _____
7. In the past five years, how many times have you attended school district deliberative sessions?
- never
 - 1-3 times
 - 4 or more times
 - comment: _____
8. Do you vote in district elections?
- always
 - sometimes
 - never
 - comment: _____
9. What is your opinion of the quality of education our students receive in the Sanborn Regional School District?
- DJ Bakie Elementary School (located in Kingston)
 - outstanding
 - satisfactory
 - unsatisfactory
 - no opinion/do not know
 - Memorial Elementary School (located in Newton)

- outstanding
- satisfactory
- unsatisfactory
- no opinion/do not know
- Sanborn Regional Middle School (located in Newton)
 - outstanding
 - satisfactory
 - unsatisfactory
 - no opinion/do not know
- Sanborn Regional High School (located in Kingston)
 - outstanding
 - satisfactory
 - unsatisfactory
 - no opinion/do not know

10. Please enter any other comments you have regarding the Sanborn Regional School District or Sanborn Regional School District Budget Committee.

- Suggested Initiative 2: Meet with town leaders from Newton and Kingston (Fremont?) to gain a mutual understanding of our challenges and to better understand what voters across the board are facing regarding the fiscal challenges of meeting the needs of their town and their district. After discussion, the committee agreed to table this until next year, as there is insufficient time to pursue this now.
- Suggested Initiative 3: Post a press release after each BudCom meeting that would include highlights of the meeting. Ms. Stephan volunteered to write these and submit them to the Chair of the Budget Committee for review and approval. The Chair will also submit the draft press releases to the Superintendent for his review and suggestions. These will be strictly factual.
- Suggested Initiative 4: Create a closed Facebook page for posting of information. Push content only; not pull. No ability for voters to comment. Ms. Stephan has created the initial page and is looking into how best to lock it down to prevent user comments. Until that time, the page will remain nonpublic.
- Suggested Initiative 5: Post information to the school district web site with links out to pertinent information. Discussion resulted in creation of boilerplate information to be posted to district web site with links to the Budget Committee Web Page and Budget Committee email address.
- Suggested Initiative 6: Post information regarding BudCom meetings to the district's individual school email blasts, which go out on Fridays. To be sent to the principals at each school by Ms. Stephan.
- Suggested Initiative 7: Post information regarding upcoming meetings to the NCAT, the Newton and Kingston Cable channel.
- Suggested Initiative 8: Post information to the local 55+ communities, libraries, town halls, churches, veteran's groups, and other civic organizations. It was decided that Mr. Doggett will post agendas and press release information to the Newton Town Hall, Ms. Stephan will post to the Newton Gale Library, Mr. Clark will post to the Kingston Town Hall, and Ms. Scanlon will post to the Kingston Library. There will be two versions of the information posted: a long form and a short form. The long form will be a press release and will be posted to newspapers and web pages. The shorter version will be posted to the schools' email blasts and cable access.
- Suggested Initiative 9: Use the Alert Now system to inform people of the upcoming Public Hearing, Deliberative session, and Voting day. Dr. Blake did this last year for two of these three events. After discussion, Dr. Blake agreed to use the Alert Now system for all three of these meetings.

Ms. Gannon also reported that we will be recording future meetings. All we will have to do is turn the camera on. The memory card is reused and immediately copied by the administration, making it available to the next meeting requiring taping. Taping will begin effective with the next BudCom meeting.

New Business:

Discuss whether to request that the Administration create a budget for the Budget Committee, and to dedicate funds from the District's Operating Budget, for this purpose.

- **Motion:** To request \$2700 from the school district to fund the administrative activities of the budget committee. Anything unspent would go back into the budget (Mr. Doggett)
Second: Mr. Gluck
Vote: 4-4-0 (motion fails)

- **Motion:** Request approval for a recording secretary provided by district to take meeting minutes and share them with secretary and chair for approval (Mr. Felisberto)
Second: Mr. Doggett
Vote: 5-2-1 (Ms Stephan abstaining) (motion passes)

Mr. Doggett suggested that BudCom members be afforded the opportunity to attend budget training and seminars held by the district. Ms. Ross will bring the request to the School Board.

Public Comment: None.

Committee Comment: Mr. Clark: Seniors got 1.7% increase this year after none for the past several years. Both towns and the county are offering flat budgets in their budgets this year. Encourages the administration to do the same. Would recommend that staff negotiations be limited to that level of increase. Everyone seems to be hearing a buzz looking for level funding.

Mr. Gluck also recommended the play at the high school.

Schedule of Future Meetings:

- Wednesday, November 19 (SRHS Library, 6:00 PM): Administration's Joint Presentation of the Budget to the School Board and Budget Committee
- Monday, November 24 (School Board Room, 7:30 PM): Budget Committee to begin discussions on the Administration's proposed budget

- Motion:** To Adjourn (Mr. Doggett)
- Second: Ms. Gannon
 - Vote: 8-0
 - Meeting Adjourned at 9:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Stephan, Budget Committee Secretary