



TOWN OF BOW

Budget Committee

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Bow Budget Committee Bow School District Approved Minutes January 14, 2019

John Heise, Chair	P	Melissa Radomski	P
Mark Zerba, Vice Chair	P	Dominic Lucente	P
Bob Arnold, Secretary	A	Benjamin Kiniry (6:20 PM – 7:30 PM)	P
Christopher Nicolopoulos (Selectman Rep.)	P	Kathy Garfield (School Brd Rep)	P
Dr. Dean S. T. Cascadden , Superintendent of Schools	P	Duane Ford, Assistant Superintendent for Business Administration	P

* P = present; A = Absent

I. Call to Order

Chair Heise called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. Approval of January 7, 2019 Minutes

Motion:

Selectman Nicolopoulos moved to approve the minutes January 7, 2019. Motion was seconded by Dominic Lucente and carried by unanimous vote of the Committee.

III. School Board Budget Review

Dr. Cascadden handed out a revised class size averages spreadsheet. Assistant Superintendent Ford responded to areas of the budget where the Committee requested more information. **New musical instruments at the BMS** (Full budget section, page 3, Music/Band) are on a replacement schedule. The District buys musical instruments that are on the expensive side. This particular instrument is a baritone sax. The students typically buy or rent their instruments but some the school owns. **Science supplies at BMS:** The school changed the 5th grade science curriculum to meet the *Next Generation* science standards. The \$250.00 is to buy a few FOSS science kits for the 5th grade. **BHS Furniture** (BHS budget narrative, page 3): The District is putting together a multi-year plan to replace uniforms and furniture. A lot of the furniture at BHS is from 1997, when the high school was built. The school has a storage area where they can store old desks. **BHS New Equipment** (BHS budget narrative): The equipment being requested includes such items as: calculators for Math; upgraded digital microscope for Science; additional cameras for Art and a plus golf pact and hitting nets so students can learn a new, lifelong physical activity for BEST.

Special Education Equipment (full budget section, page 8 and 9): Increase in the line item this year is for students who are visually impaired such as a Braille Embosser and a Braille Translator. **Athletic Supplies for BHS at the Co-curricular level** (full budget, page 13): The increase is for the BHS

Robotics Program. **Assemblies for BHS** (full budget, page 12): The high school brings in speakers for school assemblies. The increase will allow for one more assembly.

Athletic Equipment Replacement (BHS narrative): The school uniforms are on a replacement schedule. The two most expensive uniforms the school buys are for football and hockey. **Athletic dues and fees** show an increase. The school has a program called “HUDL” which most of the teams use to share video of the games. The videos can also be shared with colleges. Previously the cost of the program has been paid by the Booster Club but the district is bringing that cost in house to use for all of their teams.

Guidance Travel BHS (full budget, page 15): Some of the line items in the Guidance Section have either been zeroed out or reduced. However, the Guidance Travel for BHS has increased. The District is looking at changing school transcripts for the high school for college from grades based to competency based. The organization is called Mastery Transcript and the travel costs are so staff can go to meetings to look into that particular type of transcript.

Advertising: The District found they are advertising more frequently and longer to find qualified people. This line item has been increased back to the level it was 2 years ago. **Administration Replacement Furniture and Fixtures at BHS:** The furniture in this area was purchased when the school was built. The line item is to replace a couple of desks, conference table and a couple of chairs.

IV. School Budget Discussion

Mark Zerba asked about the increase in Special Education portion of the budget. There were 2 placements that occurred last year that was absorbed by that budget. This budget includes those costs. There are 11 out of district placements. The Tuition line has increased because outside placement was needed to meet the students’ needs. The District does take steps and provide programs to keep the special education students in school and integrate them with other students when they can. The largest areas of increase in **Professional Services for Pupils** are vision, hearing and charter school special education services. **Special Education Summer School:** Many students access programs through the summer. The program is accessed by kindergarten through grade 12 and includes transportation and program costs. For most students it is 3 days a week for 6 weeks. There are a few that access services 5 days. A Committee member expressed concerned about the effectiveness of the program and how the District evaluates the success or failure of the program. Special Education Aides accessed by Dunbarton students are paid for by Dunbarton and are not included in the tuition calculation.

There was some discussion about setting aside funding for BES renovations. The Committee could potentially go line by line and find areas of savings to put towards the renovations or a special warrant article to put some or all of the fund balance in the CRF. Historically, the District returns approximately \$600,000 to fund balance. General discussion occurred concerning such things as: school building expansion needs; the amount of housing being developed in the town; students being added to the school district; limiting building permits; or not accepting tuition students, in relation to reducing expenses and the budget. Assistant Superintendent Ford pointed that the school fund balance is made up of both revenues and expenditure savings. If the revenues are underestimated then it has to be made up in expenditures.

Different options and their effect(s) on the tax rate were discussed in relation to funding the BES renovations CRF. After some continued discussion it was generally agreed to take a look at the areas of the budget that were contribution most of the funds to the fund balance and meet again on January 21, 2019. Assistant Superintendent Ford will provide that information for the Committee.

V. Adjourn

Motion:

Mr. Zerba moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM. Motion was seconded by Mr. Lucente and carried by unanimous vote of the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Gilman, Recording Secretary