

Monroe School District #1J
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2017, 7:00 P.M.
Monroe High School Library

The meeting was called to order by Monroe School Board Chair Jennifer Gamache.

Present were: Board members Jennifer Gamache, Tony Stroda, Robert Warden, and Tim Warden; Budget Committee members Bob McCune, Hazen Parsons, Abbey Gamache, Jessica Warden and Greg Wright. Also present was Superintendent Randall Crowson. Absent: Board member Nancy Burnett.

Also present: Employees Aaron Seifer, Kim Geil, Bill Crowson; student Hannah Seifer.

Jennifer Gamache nominated Abbey Gamache as Budget Committee Secretary. Second: Tony Stroda. All in favor.

Jennifer Gamache nominated Jessica Warden as Budget Committee Chair. Second: Robert Warden. All in favor.

Jessica Warden assumed the Chair and turned the meeting over to Randall Crowson.

Mr. Crowson was asked to read the budget message. He did so. He further explained that this is a terrible budget with only \$80,000 cash carry-over. The budget says there is \$210,000 cash carry-over, \$130,000 of the cash-carryover is a cash-out from the Alpine property. Since we have no cash reserves, he had no choice but to budget on the State's lowest projection.

Greg Wright asked why maintenance was not a high priority for previous administration? Next year's superintendent must be aware of maintenance needs.

Mr. Wright questioned the checks and balances between the superintendent and school board. How to implement further "checking" between school board and superintendent. Currently, it requires two signatures for checks, but one signer is subordinate. How will the school board look into spending over the year in the future? How will interactions between the superintendent and the board be in the future?

Jennifer Gamache questioned the spending increase in food service. The increase is due to personnel needs.

There is a decrease in student activity funds based on earlier years of actual expenditures.

The EL program grant will pay for all teacher inservice next year.

The construction excise tax historically was used as a maintenance buffer, but was spent to the negative.

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Seismic grants / Bond projects include the grade school roof this summer, windows, and will shore up the walls summer of 2018. New heating systems for the grade school will be paid for by the bond money for \$87,500 and will be ready for use by October 1.

The “district office” and music room modulares were purchased out-right for \$150,000. The double classroom at the grade school is being leased for two years.

Administration salaries are down: Whitney Connolly will be full time math teacher (no administration), Bill Crowson’s contract is less than Russ Pickett’s as superintendent, Beau Sisneros’s contract is less than Bill Crowson’s as high school principal, and Kathi Holvey has taken a pay freeze as grade school principal.

There is a big increase in the fuel and electricity costs. Mr. Crowson is hoping that he overestimated due to the new heating system and the cost being so high this year due to the weather.

There was \$115,000 spent out of contingency this past year.

The proposed four million from the bond is not included.

Mr. Crowson explained he is hopeful that by the end of next year the carry-over will be \$200,000 to \$300,000.

Bob McCune moved to approve the budget as presented. Second: Robert Warden. Motion carried 9/0.

Recommendation for the next budget: please print in larger font and add a summary page.

Meeting adjourned 9:15 P.M.

Recorded by: Abbey Gamache, Secretary