

Town of Rye  
Budget Committee  
School Budget Public Hearing 1/9/19

Budget Committee Attendees: Chair Jaci Grote, Peter Crawford, Alternate Shawn Crapo for the Rye Beach Village District, Phil Winslow, Randy Crapo, Mae Bradshaw, Scott Marion, Peggy Balboni and Ralph Hickson.

Jaci Grote opened the meeting to review the warrant articles, unfinished business and then for public comments on the budget.

Jaci Grote: The first one is the operating budget \$14,121,362. The Rye School Board is recommending this 5 to 0 and the Budget Committee 8 to 1.

Mae moved to approve and Scott seconded.

There was discussion about whether the committee would need to revote. It was decided that the budget would be revoted following the public hearing.

Shawn Crapo: So after some deliberation and discussion, I have an issue and my motion is to reduce the budget by about \$5000, the approximate amount budgeted to research why students are being sent outside of the School District. He said that the job of the Rye School Board and the taxpayers of Rye is to supply an education to students. It is not a private entity. We don't have to make a profit. I feel our school is not the best it can be. Rye is not what it used to be. I challenge that we should do a better job. He said that his discussions with residents have yielded 9 negative comments for every positive one. The last

twelve years of policy has not improved our schools. I would rather have the \$5000 for enhancing our product. We have had principals who have been clock watchers waiting for retirement.

Scott Marion: We are doing the survey to see what is the best for our community. We need to know how to offer a comprehensive Middle School education for our community.

There was discussion about how to go about getting information for the survey and the best way to go about it.

Selectmen Phil Winslow: Coming from the private sector, I agree with having a customer survey.

Jaci Grote: I would like to open up to the public for comments

Shawn: I would like to react to Phil's comment. These surveys are not true surveys. When my child was at this school, you had to put your name on the survey. You're in an atmosphere where your child goes to the school and if you put negative comments on the survey, you fear your child will pay for it.

Jaci: Any comments from the public please?

Steven Borne: I would recommend that we do a survey for freshmen at the High School. I believe we need to triple the survey budget. Rye children are not able to compete in Honors Math. They have had to have tutors. My son is in that class. We need to know if our children are prepared to succeed.

Paula Tsetsilas: I'm a Rye School Board member: Just in response to your comments, Mr. Crapo, we have been working on the feasibility committee to understand the marketplace. There is a whole chapter in a publication for School Board members about marketing our schools. Population has a large impact on our school policy.

Mae had a question about the budget and adjusting it.

Jaci Grote: Right now we are not amending the budget. You have made a motion and it has been seconded. What we are voting on is \$14,121,362.00

Steven Borne (holding up a single page): This is all I have on the budget. I know that we have a different finance person, but I don't know what is going on. I don't know what the strategies are and what is happening. I used to read the detailed budget over Christmas and know what was going on, getting a feel where our money is going. Right now I have no way of understanding this.

Peter Crawford: I would like to ask Miss Ransom to give the public a simplified version of what she presented at the last meeting.

Miss Ransom: Yes, I can do that. Last time we did a line by line. It is on the video if anyone needs to see it.

I will give a quick overview. The default budget is \$13,952,300. The proposed operating budget is \$14,121,362. The changes in the default budget include a \$134,000 increase in salaries and a decrease in the special education budget of \$59,000, although there is an increase of one paraprofessional. The retirement rate for teachers is currently at 17.36 percent and going up to 17.8 percent next year. Employees are at

11.38 percent going down to 11.17 percent. Health insurance rates will be up 6.7 percent and 2.3 percent for dental. These increases are in the default budget for the teachers.

Miss Ransom continued the review of the budget highlights.

Jaci: does anyone have any questions?

Steven Borne asked whether there were teachers moving around, and whether staff was being reduced or increased. Miss Ransom responded that they don't know which teachers will be going to Rye Junior High when they move the fifth grade class, so they left all of the staff exactly where they are now. There is a whole process to figure that out. There is no net change, except that there is a reduction of half of a technology integrator.

Mr. Crawford: To follow up on Steven's point, I was a bit confused. The Superintendent said at the last meeting that the most likely number of Rye Elementary School teachers moving to Rye Junior High would be two, however I understand from those attending the fifth grade transition meeting that there was an assurance by a School Board member said that the teachers would, if anything, be increasing.

Superintendent Petralia: My recollection is that Mr. Crawford had asked specifically how many staff were moving from Rye Elementary to Rye Junior High to fill the grade five positions. At the prior meeting, I responded that we did not know how many would be moving or how big a transfer of the salary line would be needed. At that time, the positions had not been posted, now they have been. The posting is active at both schools.

Mr. Crawford: Are we going to have three additional teachers at Rye Junior High relative to what they have now to take care of the three teaching positions: Math, English and Science?

Scott Marion: That has been said at every School Board meeting. We are talking about a three person team.

Scott Marion: The School Board is not going to determine who will go where. It is not our job.

Phil Winslow: We are dropping an instructional coach at the Junior High, can you explain what that is?

Ms. Soucy (Junior High principal): We are now backing off that person at this time. It is not an athletics coach.

Chair Grote: Any other questions? Okay, we have a motion to recommend the budget \$14,121,362. And we have a second.

All in Favor, except Mr. Crawford who is still against. **Vote: 8 to 1.**

Peter moved to establish a revenue budget of \$648,669, since we have voted on the appropriation part of the budget and the RSAs specifically include, in the definition of “budget,” both the appropriations and the revenues. We need to vote on this, he said.

Peggy: We are only looking at the warrant articles.

Peter: If I could read the RSA? I believe it is RSA 32:3. Budget means “a statement of recommended appropriations and anticipated revenues submitted to the legislative body by the budget committee...” The form that we need to sign under pains and penalties of perjury includes a section on revenues. I don’t see how we can sign it if we haven’t voted on it and agreed that this is the appropriate revenue number.

Mr. Crapo: This budget is formulated based on the needs and the level of funding needed to provide a certain output. In part of establishing that, they use an anticipated revenue number. That number, along with the budget numbers, goes to the DRA as a check and balance. You can’t do anything other than prognosticate on the revenues.

Mr. Marion explained his reasoning.

Mr. Crawford referred to RSA 32:16 and said that the Budget Committee needs to establish the revenue number so that the voters may be informed of the Budget Committee’s best estimate of the revenues.

Peggy Balboni said that she understands that the revenue numbers are in “our book.”

Mr. Crawford said that his motion is to approve a number \$125,000 higher because he does not believe that the Budget Committee has put in enough revenue for the New Castle students. The most likely number is twelve, and we have \$75,000 budgeted, which is five students worth of revenue. I’m happy to describe how I came up with that number.

There was no second to Mr. Crawford’s motion.

Chair Jaci Grote: Let us go to warrant article 2. To see if the Rye School District will approve the cost items in the collective bargaining agreement and the support staff with the following increases at the current staffing level. For fiscal year 2019/2020, \$65,218; for 2020/2021 \$25,583; for 2021/2022 \$25,731; for 2022/2023, \$29,459; for 2023/2024 \$31,480, and further to raise and appropriate \$65,218 for the current fiscal year.

It was established that the Rye Budget Committee had not yet voted on this and that the mention of a vote of 9-0 was erroneous.

Scott Marion moved to recommend Article Two. Mae Bradshaw seconded.

Any comments from the public?

Mr. Crawford: I have a couple of questions. I tried to add up the support staff compensation and came up with \$790,938. He asked whether that sounded about right.

Miss Ransom: I am not sure what you are looking at? What is your question?

Mr. Crawford: What is the total of the support staff salaries in the 2019-2020 budget?

Chair Grote asked what the purpose of the question was.

Mr. Crawford said that there is an estimated increase of \$65,218, which would be 8.2 percent of the compensation figure. He asked whether, at the last meeting, a figure of six percent had been mentioned.

Superintendent Petralia: This is a five year agreement. There is a 50 cent increase on the current base wage in the first year of the contract. There is a 3.25 percent increase after the 50 cents is applied. The appropriate figure for year one is provided for you in the first section of Warrant Article Two. The following four years are a flat 3 percent over the previous year. There is no additional cost of living adjustment.

Miss Ransom pointed out that the increase amount includes longevity increases that have been held in abeyance while there was no contract, as well as FICA and retirement as well, if they qualify.

It was established that the increase percentage is unknown at this time as the 50 cent hourly increase impacts staff at different compensation levels by different percentages.

Mr. Crawford said that the figure appears to be in the ballpark and he will vote for the warrant article. It is unfortunate that the support staff, who do not make a whole lot, have been without a contract for three or four years. He said that he is not sure that anything has been saved. There is a big hit this year because of the 50 cent an hour increase, he said.

We have a motion and a second.

All in favor, none against. **Vote 9-0.**



Miss Ransom: Now that the vote is final, I will create the MS-27 form and drop it off.

Chair Grote: Mr. Crawford has agreed to proofread it.

Mr. Crawford said that he could turn it around in a day.

Chair Grote said that, after that, the Budget Committee members will sign the form.

The motion to close the public hearing carried unanimously

The motion to adjourn carried unanimously.

The meeting ended at approximately 7:26 p.m.

Public Learning  
School Budget  
JANUARY 9, 2018

630PM  
RYE JR HIGH School.

Sarah + Matt Curtin 281 Sagamore Rd  
Debra Crespo 8 Big Rock Rd  
Jeannette Moynihan 176 Central Rd.  
Josh Reinhardt, SAUSD Special Ed Director  
Salvatore Petralia Superintendent SAUSD  
Shawn Bohn 431 Wallis Rd  
Paula Tsetsilas 12 Rock Orchard Ln.  
Mike Schwartz 161 Wallis Rd  
Kelli Kille SAUSD Assistant Superintendent  
Margaret Jones 463 Central Rd  
Donna DeCotis 2 Victory Ln.  
Suzanne Luep Rye Elementary School  
Maura Tracy Rye Junior High School