

FINAL APPROVED
HOLLIS/BROOKLINE COOP BUDGET COMMITTEE
December 8, 2008 Minutes

- Members Present: Steve Pucci, Doug Davidson, Ray Valle, Lorin Rydstrom, Greg McHale, Forrest Milkowski and Greg d'Arbonne.
- Members Absent: Dan Peterson
- Guests/Public Present: None.

COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION:

MEMBERSHIP	E-MAIL/MAIL
Steve Pucci, Chairman	sdpucci@earthlink.net
Greg McHale, Vice Chairman	H: greg.mchale@gmail.com
Greg d'Arbonne, Secretary	H: Gdarbo6844@aol.com W: Gdarbonn@systems.textron.com
Dan Peterson, School Board Representative	DanJPeterson@usa.net
Doug Davidson	rangerfund@charter.net
Forrest Milkowski	ForrestMilkowski@earthlink.net Forrest@Market-Advantage.net
Lorin Rydstrom	Lorin.rydstrom@fctg.com
Ray Valle	delv@tds.net

1. Committee Chairman Steve Pucci called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.
2. The Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.
3. The members of the Budget Committee discussed what happens with the Professional Staff expenses/budget line if there is no new contract. They also discussed the School Board's breakdown of the budget. The breakdown was:
 - a. Support Staff = 44
 - b. Benefits = 137,000 (85 retirement)
 - c. SAW = 28.5
 - d. SPED = 260,000
 - e. Student info = 28,500
 - f. Fuel = 94,500
 - g. Transportation = 33,000
 - h. Salaries = 32,500
 - i. Total of all this = \$680,000 which is a 3.2% increase. Adding another .8% for Professional Staff increase and it is approximately a 4.0% increase from last year's budget.
4. Steve Pucci discussed last night's Coop School Board meeting. Steve said that after the numbers from the Coop budget were explained, Tom Enright asked the Coop School Board members how they feel about this. Some felt 3% was OK, others felt it was too much of a cut and one felt there was more that could be cut. \$606,906 is the difference between what the Coop School Board has asked for and what the Budget Committee has asked for as the budget. Ray Valle pointed out that once negotiations are over, the notes from the negotiations should be available and no longer sealed. This needs to be checked for legal possibility. Ray pointed out that the increase in students has allowed the Middle School to reduce costs. If the

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High School did the same, Ray contends, there would be a savings. The members discussed if they would accept 3% or not that the School Board seemed to be wanting. Forrest Milkowski thinks they can get to 3% with the teacher's contract and he would like to see no more than 2% increase (all items of the budget included with teacher contract increase). Lorin Rydstrom agreed with Forrest. Ray said his original was 0% and now he thinks 0% is too high. Doug Davidson agrees with Ray. Greg McHale felt that when we voted for zero based we would look at where things would be at when the detailed budget came in and now he has looked at what has been submitted and there are savings there so he thinks 0%. Greg d'Arbonne agreed with Forrest and Lorin. Steve said there seemed to be more people at the last Coop School Board meeting and they supported zero percent increase budget so he feels we can make reductions. Steve suggested we start with the \$600,000 over the Budget Committee number and show where reductions can be done. Greg McHale said we should break it down to the Core budget and then those outside the core and show reductions to each. Forrest said the Warrant for the Teacher' contract should include benefits as well as salary. Ray asked what the increase is if the contract is rejected by the voters because the Evergreen clause that is in existence today. Doug said the Evergreen clause says the current Terms and Conditions stay in effect and that means Steps remain but COLA does not come in. The Coop Budget Committee members went through the budget and made the following comments:

- a. Save on Health care by adjusting co-pays and deductables. With 132 employees, savings can be done with Dental Plans as well. Doug says it can be \$51,000+ with changes here. Forrest says with medical and dental savings it can be over \$400,000 in savings.
- b. Long term disability can go down \$51,480 savings.
- c. Expendable supplies – Doug feels \$32,000 can be saved on these by pooling purchasing.
- d. Need to look at employee reduction.
- e. Student Information System: \$47K as in the budget. If they buy it this year, they will not need it for next year.
- f. Retirement benefit: budget for an X amount who are retiring. Is this number still valid? Possible \$36K based on the number retiring that may no longer retire.
- g. Energy: cut energy budget, have a warrant article that takes care of an increase but is contingent on energy savings.
- h. Transportation: there is an opportunity to reduce because these costs are based on 100% bus ridership. Model transportation on actual use by asking who really uses the bus system. Make the cut asked for by the School Board and was never executed. What is the savings from getting rid of the bio-diesel initiative?
- i. Snow Removal: there may be some savings here.
- j. SPED: may be some savings but unknown at this time
- k. SAU Assessment: has increased every year. Should have some savings based on the reductions already mentioned here. Ray disagreed, though.
- l. Books: no savings
- m. Dues: What are each of these for and what are the benefits of these dues?
- n. Equipment: possible savings?
- o. Stipends: over \$100K. What is Teacher Advisors and why do they need a stipend? What are all these stipends for?
- p. \$663,410 was the total of those figures the members could figure out and not accounting for those that simply should be savings and we don't know.

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- q. State Aid: likely to get less. If it comes in less, we will have to go back to the budget and adjust.
 - r. Revenue line: assumption for budget discussion is that revenue stays the same.
5. Ray Valle made a motion that Steve Pucci prepare a presentation at the Joint Meeting summarizing the topics discussed at this Coop Budget Committee meeting. Forrest stated Steve has this charter already. Ray amended his motion to state that the Budget Committee authorizes the Chair to present the areas of reduced proposed spending for a total minimum of \$663,410. Greg McHale seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0-0.
- a. **Motion:** Ray Valle made a motion that the Budget Committee authorizes the Chair to present the areas of reduced proposed spending for a total minimum of \$663,410. Greg McHale seconded the motion.
 - b. **Vote:** 7 in favor of the motion, none against. The motion passed.
6. The Budget Committee members discussed the timeline and things that need to get done prior to the District Meeting in March. These are:
- a. 17 December: Concurrent Meeting with the Coop School Board.
 - b. 12 January: Budget Committee Meeting
 - c. 20 January: Budget Committee Meeting
 - d. 28 January: last date to publish meeting notice for Budget Hearing
 - e. 4 February: Budget Hearing
 - f. 11 February: last date for Budget Committee to sign the Budget
 - g. 19 February: Post the budget
7. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to adjourn and Doug Davidson seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg d'Arbonne
Secretary