

Ad Hoc Committee for Inter-district Education Cost Sharing
Programming Sub-Committee
Special Meeting
Minutes
February 18, 2022

7PM

Call to Order: Chairman Bisson called the Meeting to order at 7:05PM.

Roll Call: Rose Bisson, Kathy Donahue, Wendy Sears, Juan Arriola, Cassidy Martin

Audience for Citizens: none.

Approval of Minutes of January 5, 2022 and January 13, 2022 Special Meetings

By general consent, the Minutes of the January 5, 2022 and January 13, 2022 Special Meetings were approved.

Work Session for Budgetary Issues

A draft version of the *Combined Budget Model* spreadsheet was distributed to members. Rose Bisson reported that Pre-Kindergarten teachers, previously included in the Certified Teachers section, are now in the Pre-Kindergarten section, and that another teacher was added for a total of two, as there are 25 students enrolled in the Pre-School program. Kathy Donahue questioned the amount in the substitute line for the Special Education Department, which was higher than this line item for regular instruction. After discussion, the Special Education substitute line was reduced to \$25,500. The line item for field trips was also reduced. It was noted that the reimbursement for certified staff courses was doubled to \$5000, with Ms. Bisson noting that Hampton Elementary has many young teachers working toward additional degrees, and that the Educational Supply lines combined the totals for the two schools to estimate an amount. It was noted that Tuition expenses, and the line item for Adult Education, would be paid by each town. With the paraprofessionals combined from the two schools, and dispersed into regular and special education instruction, the budget includes five paraprofessionals assigned to special education and seven assigned to regular education, as well as two paraprofessionals in the Pre-Kindergarten classes, for a total of 14. Kathy Donahue suggested that there could be savings if the bus contracts were combined, as routes wouldn't be dependent on town lines. Wendy Sears explained the additional information she included, which contained charts with pay scales for the paraprofessional in the two schools, and for principals and superintendents. It was acknowledged that the principals' salaries in both schools are considerably lower than the other towns listed. Kathy Donahue requested that the District Reference Group be included in this chart, and Cassidy Martin suggested that CABA be contacted as well.

It was decided to use the higher number, rather than an average of the two schools, when estimating the cost of health insurance. Questions remain as to some contracted services, the line item for testing & scoring, and where various communication costs are listed in each budget.

General Discussion

There was some discussion on capital versus operational costs per school. It was acknowledged that the operational and maintenance costs, as well as construction projects which impact instruction, such as the construction, or removal, of a wall, would be in the school budget, as opposed to a special project, such as the installation of a swimming pool for community use, which would be a cost to the Town. Cassidy Martin voiced concern that the board that is formed if the cooperative agreement is approved has its own by-laws and policies. Members agreed that this should be addressed by the full committee.

It was decided to review preliminary information, specifically class size and school capacities, which will be obtained directly from the school architects, before presenting to the public. A meeting was tentatively scheduled for February 24 at 7PM with March 3 at 7PM as an alternate time.

Audience for Citizens: none.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the special meeting adjourned at 8:46PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna McDermott Arriola