

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Budget Hearing Minutes**

Date: January 23, 2014

Location: Administration Building
155 Apsley Street

Members present: Susan Dunnell, Lynn Valcourt, Lorraine Nelson and Benjamin Hoell

Members absent: Jennifer O'Brien, Brian Davis and George Luoto

Others present: Dr. Kevin Lyons, Superintendent
Patricia Lange, Finance Director
Julia M. Pisegna, Recording Secretary

I. Call the Meeting to Order – 7:17 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, Susan Dunnell.

II. Presentation of Superintendent's Recommended FY15 School Budget:

- Dr. Lyons reported that a recommended budget was being presented for review and discussion.
- Mrs. Lange noted the FY15 revenue assumptions of the Town Appropriation will increase at 2.25%; local aid from the State will be flat; circuit breaker funded at 70% of statue (\$1,041K); school choice will be flat (\$635K); entitlement grants will be flat and includes no new federal stimulus.
- Discussion ensued.
- Mrs. Lange presented an FY15 Projected Revenues summary report as of January 23, 2014 and noted the following:

Special Ed. Circuit Breaker:	\$1,041,336
School Choice w Carry-Over	\$1,605,914*
Town Appropriation	\$34,239,994
<u>Total Revenue</u>	<u>\$36,887,245</u>
*Includes FY15 Anticipated Revenue	

- Discussion ensued.

- Dr. Lyons reported that this recommended budget does not meet the needs of all students, nor does it meet personnel and infrastructure costs to sufficiently advance teaching and learning. It is short of being a needs-based budget and is slightly more than a level-services budget.
- Discussion ensued relative to state funding.
- Dr. Lyons reported that the Administration reduced the needs budget by over 1M. Dr. Lyons shared that reductions were made at all levels, including personnel, mental health interventions, instructional materials, training, and the position of elementary math coach/interventionist.
- Dr. Lyons noted that the educational impact of the structural deficit going forward includes:
 - Reduction of faculty and staff
 - Increased class sizes, more students fall through the cracks
 - Increased drop-out rates
 - Student achievement decline
 - Loss of competitiveness with charter/private schools
 - State and federal mandates not being met
 - Loss of State and Federal funding and loss of local control of district operations, including budget, curriculum and instruction
 - Faculties attrition, difficulty hiring and retaining quality faculty and staff
 - Underfunding of needed instructional personnel and materials
 - Eroding infrastructure
 - Impact on proper valuations
- Discussion ensued.

III. Approval of Superintendent's Recommended FY15 School Budget:

- **Personnel - \$29,481,484.37:** A motion to approve was made by Mrs. Dunnell and seconded by Ms. Valcourt. On a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.
- **General Expense - \$6,749,244.81:** A motion to approve was made by Mrs. Dunnell and seconded by Ms. Valcourt. On a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.
- **Transportation: \$1,931,341.50:** A motion to approve was made by Mrs. Dunnell and seconded by Ms. Valcourt. On a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

At 7:50 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Ducey. On a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Valcourt, Secretary
Hudson School Committee

List of Documents Source and Location

DOC NAME	SOURCE	LOCATION
FY15 School Budget Overview PowerPoint Presentation	Finance Director/Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
FY15 School Budget Voting Sheet	Finance Director/Superintendent	Superintendent's Office