

Blue Hill School Committee “Budget Workshop”
November 29, 2006
Blue Hill Consolidated School
Minutes

The Blue Hill School Committee held a Budget Workshop on November 29, 2006 at Blue Hill Consolidated School.

Members Present: Ben Wootten; Jon Smallidge; John Richardson;
Susan Keenan; Alice Herrick

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Superintendent Denis Howard and Principal Fred Cole

Chair Wootten opened the meeting at 5:02 p.m. followed by the flag salute. There were no changes to the agenda and Supt. Howard explained how the budget presentation was being made. Chair Wootten suggested that the Committee work until 6:30 p.m., see where they are at and decide at that point to break for dinner or continue with the process.

Supt. Howard and Principal Cole walked the Board through the 25 page preliminary budget with an explanation of each line. The Board asked questions and provided input without making any changes at this point. Supt. Howard pointed out that health insurance was being budgeted at 20% above the present cost. All other insurance rates are up about 7%. Fuel oil was projected based on a two year average. Fred Cole presented the instructional costs including special education and a Pre-K Program proposal in concert with other agencies.

Mr. Cole also distributed an itemized list of new equipment and a breakdown of proposed coaching stipends.

Secondary tuition was discussed and Chair Wootten suggested the establishment of a "secondary education reserve account".

Fred Cole made an excellent presentation of a Pre-K Program and how it would fit into the BHCS setting. He presented many facts and figures, both pro and con, regarding such a program. After much discussion, the general consensus was that such a program is needed on the Peninsula, but not necessarily located at BHCS.

The School Committee took no action on the budget at this time. All items are still under consideration. It was agreed to hold another **budget workshop at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13, 2006** prior to the regular meeting of the Blue Hill School Committee.

The payroll warrants were signed by the Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis L. Howard, Ed. D.
Interim Superintendent