

**Blue Hill School Committee “Budget” Meeting
January 10, 2007
Blue Hill Consolidated School
Minutes**

6:00 PM - 2007-2008 School Budget Meeting

School Committee Members Present: Ben Wootten; Jon Smallidge; John Richardson; Alice Herrick

School Committee Members Absent: Susan Keenan

Others Present: Denis Howard; Fred Cole; Ann Louise d’ Entremont; Jan Snow; Frank Wanning; Cara Guerrieri; Don Eley; Jim Schatz; Richard Seeger; Kathy McClure; Al Michelson; David Walsh, Penobscot Bay Press

After Chair Ben Wootten called the meeting to order, he indicated that perhaps a question/answer approach would be the best way to address any concerns regarding the proposed budget.

Superintendent Howard referred to Page 17 and indicated that increases in Instructional Services were contractual (salary & benefits). The other areas pointed out were Secondary Program and Special Education. He gave the cost per pupil less transportation costs & debt services as \$10,875.00. He pointed out that this budget is based on K-12, not just the K-8 Program. He explained that secondary tuition rates have been budgeted at 5% over present costs.

Principal Cole handed out enrollment figures of Blue Hill Consolidated School (BHCS) including special education enrollment by grade level. Class size at BHCS is currently 13 to 1.

Superintendent Howard pointed out that secondary special education costs fluctuate depending on the school when services are being delivered.

There were many questions and good discussion. Richard Seeger indicated that the Budget Advisory Board will meet soon and he would inform the School Committee of the results.

Superintendent Howard informed those present that he has been informed that the EPS Funding Formula will increase from 84% to 95%, which means Blue Hill (even though a low subsidy receiver) will receive more subsidy based on FY 2004-2005 cost.

Jim Schatz told those present that he is still concerned about EPS and will keep tabs on it.

Much discussion took place regarding the new initiative announced by the Governor’s Office to reduce school administration statewide. No action necessary.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis L. Howard, Ed. D.
Superintendent

Blue Hill School Committee Meeting
January 10, 2007
Blue Hill Consolidated School
Minutes

7:03 PM - Regular Meeting Time

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair Ben Wootten followed by the salute to the flag.

School Committee Members Present: Ben Wootten; Jon Smallidge; John Richardson; Alice Herrick

School Committee Members Absent: Susan Keenan

Others Present: Denis Howard; Fred Cole; Ann Louise d' Entremont; Jan Snow; Frank Wanning; Cara Guerrieri; Don Eley; Jim Schatz, David Walsh, Reporter for the Penobscot Bay Press

B. Flag Salute

C. Approval of the Agenda

John Richardson motioned and Alice Herrick seconded to approve the agenda as presented.
The motion passed 4-0-0.

D. Approval of Minutes of Previous School Board Meetings

1. Jon Smallidge motioned and Alice Herrick seconded to approve the minutes of both the December 13, 2006 Budget Workshop meeting and December 13, 2006 regular meeting minutes.
The motion passed 4-0-0.

E. Communications

PTF Report - Fred Cole reported in Beth Jackson's absence noting that the PTF had several events planned, actually one per month. He reported January - April as follows:

January 12 - Family Movie Night "Cars"

February - Pot Luck & Variety Show

March - Family Game Night

April - TV Turnoff Week Activities for Family

F. Comments and/or Questions from the Public

Don Eley asked if any more thought had been given to joining the National PTA.

Fred Cole said the local PTF decided not to join at the present time because of rigid guidelines proposed by PTA.

Mr. Eley felt the organization would have more continuity and will continue to expand and more parents might get involved because of national affiliation. No action necessary.

Jim Schatz reported that he still would like to see some collaboration between the school and town regarding a Preschool Program. He suggested the Town Meeting in March would be a good opportunity to "air the issue out".

Continued on page 2.

Blue Hill School Committee Meeting - January 10, 2007 - Page 2.

F. Comments and /or Questions from the Public (continued)

Ben Wootten agreed and explained that the Board simply didn't feel this was the year to finance it as part of the budget proposal.

G. Information

1. GSA Report - Frank Wanning reported that they (GSA) has a real problem with its budget process because they do not have enrollment counts or any figures from the state to date.

2. Principal's Report - Principal Cole reported the BHCS was again randomly selected to take part in the National Assessment Educational Progress (NAEP) which is a 90 minute assessment for randomly selected students. The tests will be administered by non school personnel and no reports will be made available to the school or parents. The results are simply used as national samples to compare Maine with other states. Notices have been sent home to parents. Mr. Cole also announced the Geography Bee winners:
1st Place - Sam Eley; 2nd Place - Imogen Page, 3rd Place - Brandon Pizzuto.

3. Superintendent's Report - Superintendent Howard announced the Union #93 Spelling Bee is scheduled for February 6th at Brooksville at 6:30 p.m. Snow date, if needed, will be February 13th, same time and place. He updated the Board on the Superintendent Search with hiring date projected to be March 8, 2007. He announced GSA's 8th grade night for students, parents, school personnel and school boards on January 24th from 6-8 p.m. He distributed some "talking points" on the new initiative to reduce the number of administrators.

4. Other Reports/Information - None

H. Old Business

1. Report on Board Goal # 4 - Jon Smallidge shared some sample questions with the Board for a student survey of BHCS grads attending GSA. Some examples are:

How prepared were you for high school at GSA?

If prepared, in what way? If not adequately prepared, why?

What was the most difficult change from BHCS to GSA?

What subject were you prepared for? What subject were you not prepared for?

What can BHCS do to make you better prepared for high school?

Fred Cole will contact GSA to see how the survey can be administered to BHCS grads enrolled at GSA. A report of results will be forthcoming.

I. New Business

1. After reading the first draft of the School Volunteers Policy, it was suggested to move "get initial principal approval" at the top. Fred Cole will clean it up for the second reading.

No action necessary.

2. Summary of Accounts

Denis Howard pointed out the December (SOA) shows expenditures to date and projections to year's end. He explained the usefulness of the SOA in preparing a budget.

Blue Hill School Committee Meeting Minutes - January 10, 2007 - Page 3.

I. New Business (continued)

3. John Richardson motioned and Jon Smallidge seconded to enter into an executive session for the purpose of principal contract matters per 1 MRSA 405 (6)(A) with the Board, Fred Cole and Denis Howard. The motion passed 4-0-0.

Time In: 7:53 p.m.

Time Out: 8:09 p.m.

4. Upon returning to open session, a motion was made by John Richardson and seconded by Jon Smallidge to extend Fred Cole's contract to June 30, 2009.

The motion passed 4-0-0.

Jon Smallidge motioned and Alice Herrick seconded to award Fred Cole a 3% increase in pay for the 2007-2008 contract year, or \$64,609.00. The motion passed 4-0-0.

5. John Richardson motioned and Jon Smallidge seconded to approve the 2007-2008 proposed school budget of \$4,219,101,45. The motion passed 4-0-0.

J. Signing of Vouchers

The vouchers were signed.

K. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis L. Howard, Ed. D.
Superintendent