

**SPAULDING HIGH SCHOOL  
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Spaulding High School Library  
November 29, 2017 - 4:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Paul Malone - Chair  
Tim Boltin  
David LaCroix  
Penny Chamberlin, Director Central Vermont Career Center  
Lisa Perrault, Business Manager  
Brenda Waterhouse, Principal

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

Donald McMahon, Special Services Director  
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

**1. Call to Order**

**The Chair, Mr. Malone, called the Wednesday, November 29, 2017, Finance Committee meeting to order at 4:02 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.**

**2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda**

None.

**3. Approval of Minutes – October 25, 2017 Finance Committee Meeting**

**On a motion by Mr. Boltin, seconded by Mr. LaCroix, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the October 25, 2017 Finance Committee meeting.**

**4. FY19 Budget**

Seven documents were distributed; the CVCC and SHS FY19 Budget Considerations documents (dated 11/29/17), Draft #2 of the CVCC and SHS FY19 Budgets, documents titled 'BSU Special Education' and 'FY19 Barre Supervisory Union Assessment Information 11/24/17', and an untitled document showing the calculation of the Equalized Pupil cost for FY19.

Discussion started with the CVCC Draft Budget. Ms. Chamberlin advised that there were no significant changes from Draft #1. Preliminary numbers from the Agency of Education show that the Base rate has gone down. The Budget is 3% lower than last year, but does not yet include changes to salaries and benefits. No savings relating to health insurance are in the budget draft.

Mrs. Perreault advised regarding the 4 new health insurance plans, noting an approximate 10% increase in premiums. The six month student count is 149. The anticipated tuition rate for FY19 is \$14,408 which represents a \$560 increase. This tuition rate is still \$2,500 to \$3200 below the state average. Ms. Chamberlin advised regarding the addition of a Medical Professions Program in FY19 and provided a brief overview of the program. This new program will be supported by grant funding for 3 ½ years.

Mr. Malone advised regarding the hiring of a communications specialist to assist with communicating FY19 budget information and advised that the communication specialist will need to be provided with some of the budget information. The notations included in the budget have been very beneficial. The Board will be receiving a summarized version of the budgets.

Discussion of the SHS budget ensued. Mrs. Perreault advised regarding a \$50,000 increase in line #17 (General Instruction – Contracted Services), noting that this increase is based student needs and actuals from past years. It was noted that this amount includes tuition (the Brook Street Program) for 'day students' that do not qualify for special education. It was noted that no reimbursement is received for State placed students if one parent lives in Barre. Mrs. Perreault advised that there were an additional 6 outplaced students this fall at a cost of approximately \$750,000, of which \$400,000 is related to special education. It is anticipated that the reimbursement will be approximately \$300,000. Staff members are continuing to work to determine if some students qualify for special education. Though the Special Education Budget was reduced by \$627,435 (due to transitioning 7 students back to SHS), it should be noted that the school has recently been impacted by a number of students who have intensive needs. Mrs. Perreault provided an overview of the BSU Special Education document, advising that the SHS assessment is \$1,280,481. Line #224 of the budget is a little higher than the assessment (\$1,425,000) in anticipation of additional costs that will most likely occur. The

assessment model is different this year, making it difficult to make a comparison to prior years. Brief discussion was held regarding the challenges associated with budgeting and providing special education services. Mrs. Waterhouse feels that the model currently in place is successful and is resulting students graduating. It was noted that the schools are now providing many services which used to be provided by Social Services. There is concern that the state tax increase, coupled with local increases, will cause the budget to fail.

Mrs. Perreault provided an overview of the new cost per pupil calculation, advising that there is a real concern that if the budget fails, there is nothing left to cut. Mrs. Perreault would be more comfortable putting \$300,000 back in (for Special Education), adding \$100,000 (for Regular Education), and an additional \$100,000 in anticipation of staff and benefit increases. Addition of \$500,000 will result in a 6% increase in the cost per pupil. Education spending of \$ 10,365,711 (the amount currently listed), results in a 1.3% increase. If the amount were changed to \$ 10,500,000 the result would be an increase of \$2.7%. Changing the amount to \$ 10,529,000 will result in an increase of 2.9%, which is more in line with a 3% increase (that has been discussed as a possible goal). It was noted that \$12,000 has been cut from Athletics and that nothing more can be cut from that line item. Mr. Boltin advised that he would like to present a budget that reflects what is actually needed. Ms. Chamberlin suggested considering expanding the Granite and Access Programs so that the district could start accepting students from other districts. Ms. Chamberlin expressed her concern that the quality of education at SHS is going down, and that the school cannot continue down this path of cuts to budgets/services. Mrs. Waterhouse advised that she will be visiting Chelsea High School on 12/13/17 for the purpose of promoting the school. Chelsea is in the process of closing their high school and will be needing to place students outside of the Chelsea district. The ROTC program and scholarships are two very positive attributes of the school. It was suggested that providing transportation from Chelsea to SHS might be beneficial, as tuition income would most likely far outweigh the cost of transportation. Research will be performed to determine the cost and identify what would need to be done to initiate a busing program (daily runs between Chelsea and SHS). Mrs. Perreault advised that the BCEMS Finance Committee would like to see more efficiency in transportation, and have started discussion on the topic. Mrs. Perreault advised that by next week, the BSU will know what the new Base and Yield amounts will be. Mrs. Waterhouse believes it is premature to present numbers at this point. It was noted that the BSU budget needs to be approved prior to budget approval at the district level. Research needs to be performed to 'backtrack' to identify how early budgets need to be approved in order to be presented to the City Counsel.

#### **5. Other Business**

None.

#### **6. Items to be placed on Future Agendas**

FY19 Budget Updates  
Year End Projections  
Busing

#### **7. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 3:00 p.m., in the Spaulding High School Library.

#### **8. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mr. LaCroix, seconded by Mr. Boltin, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 5:32 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Andrea Poulin*