

**SPAULDING HIGH SCHOOL
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**
Spaulding High School Library
January 2, 2018 - 3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Malone - Chair
Tim Boltin
David LaCroix – arrived at 3:13 p.m.
Penny Chamberlin, Director Central Vermont Career Center
Lisa Perrault, Business Manager
Brenda Waterhouse, Principal

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dotty Ricks

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Donald McMahon, Special Services Director

GUESTS PRESENT:

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Malone, called the Monday, January 2, 2018, Finance Committee meeting to order at 3:10 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Approval of Minutes – November 29, 2017 Finance Committee Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Boltin, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the November 29, 2017 Finance Committee meeting.

4. FY19 Budget

Twelve documents were distributed; the CVCC and SHS Budget Considerations documents (dated 01/02/18), the FY19 Proposed Budget Draft #3 Cost Per Equalized Pupil (SHS) document, the Ballot Language document, the Spaulding UHS and CVCC Revenue Reports (dated 01/04/18), the SHS and CVCC FY19 Budget Drafts #3 (dated 01/04/18), the FY19 BSU Assessment Information document (dated 12/21/17), the Projected Comparative Tax Rate Calculation report - for budget years 2018 – 2019 (dated 12/29/17), the CVCC Expense Budget historical information summary report, and the FY19 CVCC Projected Tuition Report.

Mrs. Perreault provided a brief overview of the SHS Budget Considerations document, noting there were no significant changes other than a reduction (\$80,000) in the BSU budget, resulting from the elimination of one Special Education Director position.

Mrs. Perreault advised that draft #3 totals \$10,445,225 in Education Spending, which equates to an Equalized Cost per Pupil of \$13,363, an increase in per pupil spending of .0012%. Mrs. Waterhouse stressed that the budget itself did not change much, and that the low increase in cost per pupil is the result of an increase in the number of pupils. Mrs. Perreault provided a brief overview of the Ballot Language document. It was noted that a complete budget packet will be provided to the SHS Board at their Regular Meeting. Mr. Boltin recommended that the budget be increased some to more realistically reflect the true picture, perhaps an increase of 1.2%. It was noted that Draft #3 does not include any increase to accommodate salary and benefit increases. Mr. LaCroix agreed that the budget should be increased. Mr. Malone voiced concern that the budget pass, and would prefer the budget remain as low as possible. After brief discussion, including the unknown salary and benefit increases, the Committee agreed to increase the budget to more accurately reflect anticipated expenses in FY19. With an increase of \$100,000, the cost per pupil would be \$13,490, an increase of 1.07%. It was noted that perhaps an increase of 1.5% or 1.7% would be more realistic, and be acceptable to voters. Mrs. Perreault and Mrs. Waterhouse will make adjustments to the draft (increasing the budget by \$100,000), and have amended documents ready for presentation to the SHS Board. Mrs. Waterhouse advised that there may be an opportunity to increase revenue, dependent on enrollment of students from Chelsea. Though students from outlying areas are not added to the pupil count, their enrollment (tuition) adds to revenue, thus lowering the cost per pupil amount. Mr. LaCroix advised that he has performed some research relating to wage/salary increases for other local union contracts. Those contract increases are approximately 2%. Mrs. Perreault provided an overview of the Assessment document, noting that the SHS portion of the total BSU Assessment is 33%. The 33% is split between CVCC 18% and SHS 82%.

It was noted that BCEMS and BTMES will need to split the cost of the 3 Curriculum Specialists, whose positions will most likely no longer be grant funded. The SPED budget has increased overall by 2.5%. Mrs. Perreault advised that the Projected Tax Calculation worksheets need to be adjusted up to reflect the \$100,000 increase in the budget. Mrs. Perreault performed the calculations and advised that the total combined SHS and BCEMS tax rate will increase from 1.3146 to 1.318 (a difference of 0.084). Mrs. Perreault suggested that BCEMS, BTMES, and SHS representatives present the budget jointly to the City Council.

Mrs. Perreault began an overview of the CVCC budget, which has a 3% decrease in expenditures. It was noted that the 6 semester average child count has decreased from 162 to 149. Ms. Chamberlin advised that the budget reflects utilizing \$50,000 from the FY17 surplus to assist with lowering the tuition amount. With the currently proposed budget, tuition is \$14,527, which is still lower than other technical centers.

It was suggested that a 'visual' be used to help promote budgets. The visual could simplify voters' understanding of the budgets, by showing the tax impact based on various house values (e.g. \$100,000 house value = \$80.00 tax increase).

5. Other Business

None.

6. Items to be placed on Future Agendas

No discussion.

7. Next Meeting Date

Unless the need arises, the Committee will not meet on 01/24/18 or 02/28/18.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 4:00 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 4:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin