

**SPAULDING HIGH SCHOOL  
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Spaulding High School Library  
March 22, 2017 - 4:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Paul Malone - Chair  
Tim Boltin  
David LaCroix  
John Pandolfo, Superintendent  
Lisa Perrault, Business Manager  
Dotty Ricks

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Penny Chamberlin, Director Central Vermont Career Center  
Brenda Waterhouse, Principal

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

**1. Call to Order**

**The Chair, Mr. Malone, called the Wednesday, March 22, 2017, Finance Committee meeting to order at 4:03 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.**

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

Add 4.1 Approval of Minutes – December 21, 2016 Finance Committee Meeting

**3. FY '18 Budget Revisions for Revote**

A packet of information pertaining to the budget was distributed. The packet contained information relating to; the proposed revised expense budget, calculation of the cost per equalized pupil, ballot language, the proposed reductions, and the proposed Comparative Tax Rate Calculations for Barre City and Barre Town. Mrs. Perreault provided an overview of the proposed budget revisions and the resulting impact to the cost per equalized pupil and tax payers. Proposed reductions total \$66,314 and include reductions to EMT/Police coverage at athletic events, a reduction in the security line item (funding for new cameras was reduced), a reduction in the line item for Substitutes, a reduction in Special Education Contracted Services, and a reduction in electrical costs (resulting from the solar agreement credits). The proposed reductions result in an expense budget of \$13,372,971, which is an increase of 2.97%. The defeated budget was \$13,439,285 (an increase of 3.49%). It was noted that the required budget language (showing the increase in the cost per pupil) is misleading and may have contributed to the budget's defeat. The proposed budget results in education spending of \$13,347 per student (a 3.5% increase in the cost per pupil). Mr. Pandolfo ran some calculations which proved that a slight drop in student population has a significant impact on the cost per pupil amount. It was noted that the proposed cost per pupil is the lowest in the state. Mr. LaCroix volunteered to be present at the polls. Ms. Ricks suggested posting information on Front Porch Forum, and mailing informational post cards to community members. In response to a query, it was noted that the proposed cuts to athletic event security should not have a negative impact relating to student safety (emergency services are located within minutes of the school). Funding for required security was not removed from the budget. **On a motion by Mr. Boltin, seconded by Mr. LaCroix, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the proposed reductions, and forward the revised budget to the SHS Board for approval and approval of the required Warning.**

**4. Other Business**

**4.1 Approval of Minutes – December 21, 2016 Finance Committee Minutes**

**On a motion by Mr. LaCroix, seconded by Mr. Boltin, the Committee voted 5 to 0 to approve the Minutes of the December 21, 2017 Finance Committee meeting. Ms. Ricks abstained.**

Mr. LaCroix advised that a book keeper will be hired to manage the Student Activity Accounts. This item may be reviewed at the Finance Committee Meeting.

Mr. LaCroix has requested, but has not received, a copy of the criteria sheet for the Amanda Garland scholarship account. If the criteria sheet cannot be obtained, the money will need to be returned to the donor. Mr. Pandolfo will look into this matter.

Additionally, it was reported that an accounting of the Associated Funds should be available for the April 26, 2017 meeting.

## **5. Communication to the Public**

It was noted that the public should be advised regarding how the drop in the student count impacts the budget. The public should also be made aware of the unfunded mandates, the quality of education provided by SHS, and that SHS has the lowest high school 'cost per pupil' in the state. Various forms of communication presented for consideration include Front Porch Forum, Facebook, an e-mail blast, automated phone calls, and an informational flyer. Mrs. Perreault will draft a flyer for presentation to the SHS Board. It was noted that communications to the public should be kept brief. Communication to the public will be discussed further at the Regular SHS Board Meeting. Ms. Ricks volunteered to initiate a 'robo-call' if the budget is approved by the SHS Board.

Mr. Malone queried regarding why the CVCC budget is traditionally being voted on. He noted that tuition being paid for SHS students to attend CVCC is included in the SHS budget and he is unsure why the CVCC budget is presented to the public for approval.

## **6. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 4:00 p.m., in the Spaulding High School Library.

## **7. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mr. LaCroix, seconded by Mr. Boltin, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 5:08 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Andrea Poulin*