

**Finance Committee Meeting Notes  
Crescent Lake School  
November 13, 2024 6:00pm**

**PRESENT**

**GWRSB Finance Committee:** Brodie Deshaies – Team Leader, Guy Pike, James Pittman, Dr. Beth Sheckler

**Administration:** Superintendent Caroline Arakelian, Business Administrator Kathy O’Blenes, Andrea Fournier, Katie Small, Patti Morrissey, Kelly Colby-Seavey, Corinne Rowe, Brian Beaverstock

**Other:** Tom Bickford, Mary Schillereff, community members

**SUBJECT MATTER**

Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2026 – General Fund

**BUDGET OVERVIEW/DISCUSSION**

- Principal Fournier presented the proposed budget for Ossipee Central School with an increase of 4.05%. Ms. Fournier stated that the current student enrollment is 282, professional staffing is full with the exception of the STEP special education teacher, and there are 6 paraprofessional openings. She expressed thanks to the Board for the new unit ventilators in all classrooms. The OCS budget increases are due to nursing services, repairs and maintenance (carpet replacement), copying (shifting away from textbook use), telephone/internet, and electricity. She also noted budget decreases in snow removal, heating oil, and replacement equipment and furniture. She requested a new full-time District Preschool DPT for the robust preschool population that is supported by OCS, NDS, as well as the Wolfeboro Area Children’s Center, describing the heavy caseload and responsibilities of the current single DPT. Ms. Fournier answered questions from the committee.
- Principal Small presented the proposed budget for Tuftonboro Central School with an increase of 3.05%. Ms. Small stated that the current enrollment is 100 students, which changes frequently as families move in and out of the area. The school is fully staffed professionally with only one paraprofessional opening. Ms. Small thanked the Board for its support of the new GWAT agreement, providing the 100% principal position a separate DPT position for the next school year. The budget drivers are utilities and building service agreements. She shared that TCS is strengthening community connections by hosting community events each month, noting the September Open House and the October Halloween Parade. Ms. Small answered questions from the committee.
- Principal Morrissey presented the proposed budget for Effingham Elementary School with an increase of 14.47%, driven largely by an increase in Health Services and utilities. Ms. O’Blenes explained that the nurse’s hours increased from 6.5 to 8 hours per day, resulting in a large increase in the Health Services budget line. Ms. Morrissey stated that the current enrollment is 120 with a full professional staff and one open support staff position. She added that having a full-time professional school counselor and a full-time Library Media Specialist is very much appreciated. Ms. Morrissey also thanked the Board for their support of the new GWAT agreement, providing the 100% principal position and a separate DPT position for the next school year. She highlighted some new staff who joined the building this school year and answered questions from the committee.

- Principal Colby-Seavey presented the budget for New Durham School with an increase of 6.62%. She reported the current student enrollment of 145, a decrease of 15 from the previous year due largely to housing challenges, but predicted a modest recovery next year. There are currently six support staff openings at the school. Ms. Colby-Seavey shared that the recent parent/teacher conferences were well attended, and the traditional community Thanksgiving dinner is upcoming. She thanked the Board for their support of the new windows that were installed following last year's budget process and for their support of the new playground at the school through the efforts of the PTO. Budget increases are due to health services, utilities, insurance, oil, and contracted services for equipment. It is likely that the RIF of a classroom teacher will be necessary next school year, but she requested the addition of a full-time paraprofessional for reading support. Ms. Colby-Seavey answered questions from the committee.
- Principal Rowe presented the budget for Carpenter School with an increase of 5.97%. She reported the current student enrollment of 183, which changes frequently as families move in and out of the area. There is a new staff member expected to fill the one open paraprofessional position soon. The budget drivers are maintenance/repairs for the aging building and grounds care. Ms. Rowe requested budget increases for the replacement of aging furniture and general supplies to support mandated requirements in the classroom. Ms. Rowe answered questions from the committee.
- Principal Beaverstock presented the budget for Crescent Lake School with an increase of 8.39%. He thanked the Board for their support of his request for an additional grade 5 teacher for this school year, resulting in a decrease in the number of discipline referrals so far this year. He described the building's new public address system, the completion of the heating/air conditioning project, and the rewiring of the building that was all completed this summer. He reported that the current student enrollment is 180 and that the building is fully staffed. The budget drivers are health services and utilities. He will likely reduce his staff by one teacher next year due to fewer grade 3 students moving up than grade 6 students leaving for middle school. Mr. Beaverstock answered questions from the committee.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** At 7:06 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

**Moved:** Mr. Pittman – **Second:** Mr. Pike

**Vote:** All in favor

Recorded by,



Kathy Lagace

School Board Secretary

Approved by School Board: **12/02/2024**