

**Hoosac Valley Regional School District
Audit and Evaluation Agenda/Draft Minutes
Monday, August 26, 2024 - 6:30pm
District Conference Room**

Call the Meeting to order @ 4:00pm

Present : Aaron Dean, Erika Snyder, Mike Henault

Via Zoom: Erin Milne

Guests, Shaun McGrath, Michelle Franssconi (Cheshire Select Board)

1. Welcome
2. Info request from Cheshire
 - a. Discussed public record request from cheshire and how to proceed - Erika will provide details on those revolving funds where balances remain and highlight FY25 earmarked uses
3. Process and timeline of district wide meeting
 - a. Discussed next steps for town wide meeting and budget vote
 - b. Can district send out all call to families notifying them of the meeting and to vote
 - c. Joint or single press release from school committee and union - can we do this?
 - d. Options if budget vote doesn't pass - can't cut into reserves unless we want to be left with nothing for FY26 and it only compounds the issue because we cannot educationally cut 600K in services and provide a solid product
 - e. Timeline - Sept 30th for meeting - hold at HVMHS auditorium - must notify towns and choose moderator - town clerks will have to coordinate and have check in process - will need to pay for all expenditures out of district funds.
4. Process for providing facts to community about budget
 - a. Must be sure to notify adams that their registered voters are not limited to their town meeting members
 - b. E milne noted that as school committee members - there's more leeway with being able to express an opinion and hold meetings or advocate the budget - erin to send link with info on advocacy from school committee members
 - c. Informational forum? hold at conclusion of open house at one of the schools?
 - d. PTG - can they get involved in advocating for the schools and getting the word out
 - e. E Milne suggested school committee members do better to get information out to the public in general
 - f. Mike H - could ACTA do a phone tree? Was done once before
 - g. Erin M - asked that the committee vote on monday to take a position in supporting the budget and to move forward with the budget as is - we need to approach professionally and not make it a town vs town situation. Mike H offered to draft the resolution.
5. District wide meeting - Proposed resolutions approved by district counsel for discussion
 - a. BE IT RESOLVED that the Hoosac Valley Regional School Committee, by warrant sets a district-wide meeting for Monday, September 30, 2024 at Hoosac Valley High School at 6:30pm, at which the budget shall be placed before all voters eligible to vote at said meeting, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 71, s. 16B and 603 CMR 41.05(3)(f).

- b. BE IT RESOLVED that the Hoosac Valley Regional School Committee adopts an official stance that we continue to support the FY25 Budget as unanimously approved by the Committee on March 25, 2024 and reaffirmed on June 27, 2024 and recommends that this budget in the amount of \$22,481,719 be adopted through the district-wide meeting scheduled for September 30, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm