

Budget Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 1, 2024
7:00 p.m., Hampden Academy - Library

Attendees: Committee member Allan Gordon, Will Seavey, Budget Chair, Superintendent Raymond Raymond, Superintendent, and Trish Hayes, District Accountant, Greg Im, attorney from Drummond Woodsum and Town of Hampden representative, Eric Jarvi, Board members Faye Anderson, Lester French, Brooke Miller, Colleen Jolley, and Ellen Hassan. All RSU #22 administrators.

Absent: Jessica Barnes, Stacey Haskell, and John Holmes.

Superintendent Raymond began the meeting at 7:06 p.m. He presented the budget timeline and where we are in the process at the moment.

Superintendent Raymond went through his presentation of approximately 40 slides. Superintendent Raymond reviewed the budget timeline and the upcoming important budget meeting dates ending with the budget validation referendum vote on June 11, 2024. The topics reviewed were enrollment, revenue, how assessments to towns are calculated, increases in benefits and wages were explained. Each article was reviewed and explained, new positions and their costs and the need for them were reviewed. Superintendent Raymond reviewed the reserve funds current balances and recommended additions from FY24 fund balance. He outlined the need for a Special Education reserve fund. There is not currently a fund for this purpose. Superintendent Raymond also pointed out that there are no plans in the FY25 budget for a new Central Office Administration building. While this has been a topic of conversation for a few years it has become clear that the public was not as well informed as we had hoped. Superintendent Raymond addressed the current fund balance and the accumulation over the years. Unlike towns, school districts have a limit placed on the allowable fund balance. A three year plan to reduce the current fund balance is in progress. Superintendent Raymond discussed the priority list that has been compiled over the past year as possible projects to utilize a portion of the fund balance.

The presentation can be found at <https://www.rsu22.us/budget>.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.