

**Finance Committee Meeting Notes  
Crescent Lake School  
November 19, 2025 6:00pm**

**PRESENT**

**GWRSB Finance Committee:** Dr. James Manning – Team Leader, Kirsten Burke, Brodie Deshaies (6:06pm), Kayla Hewitt

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

**Other:** Tom Bickford, Mary Schillereff, Dr. Beth Sheckler, community members

**SUBJECT MATTER**

Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2027 – General Fund

**BUDGET OVERVIEW / DISCUSSION**

- Principal Andrea Fournier presented the proposed budget for Ossipee Central School with an increase of 3.8%. Ms. Fournier stated that the current student enrollment is 295, professional staffing is nearly full, with one open position. There are also 7 paraprofessional positions and one custodial position open. The OCS budget increase includes the continued replacement cycle for the 20-year-old carpet tiles on the repairs and maintenance line. She also noted a budget decrease for the nurse salary that will be added to wages. She requested a full-time DPT to support the preschool population of the District. She also explained the rationale for reducing two paraprofessional positions in order to support the retention of one professional teaching position. Ms. Fournier answered questions from the committee.
- Principal Katie Small presented the proposed budget for Tuftonboro Central School with an increase of 1.1%. Ms. Small stated that the current enrollment is 110. The school is fully staffed professionally with three paraprofessional openings. Ms. Small described her continued efforts to bring families into the building with events and activities to strengthen community connections. The budget drivers are utilities, maintenance, health services, and insurance. She requested the committee’s consideration to increase the DPT position shared with EES from 70% to 100%. Ms. Small answered questions from the committee.
- Principal Patti Morrissey presented the proposed budget for Effingham Elementary School with no increase for FY2027. Ms. Morrissey stated that the current enrollment is 126 with a full professional staff and one open support staff position in Special Education. The retirement of a full-time custodian will create an additional opening in January. Budget drivers are utilities, maintenance, oil, and the nurse position. She also requested that the shared 70% DPT position be increased to 100%. She answered questions from the committee.
- Principal Kelly Colby-Seavey presented the budget for New Durham School with an increase of 1.29%. She reported student enrollment of 154. There is currently one open paraprofessional position and two open recess proctor positions at the school, and she expects to reduce the professional staff (RIF) by one member next year due to the demands

of the student/teacher ratio formula. Ms. Colby-Seavey explained the importance of photocopying reading and math materials for students, which contributes to the school's large copying expense. Ms. Colby-Seavey answered questions from the committee.

- Principal Corinne Rowe reported the current student enrollment of 194 in kindergarten through grade 3 for Carpenter School, with the 47 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students attending Crescent Lake School during construction. She briefly updated the committee on the ceiling replacement project that is underway. The school is fully staffed at this time, with one recent opening for a staff member who would currently work with the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at CLS. The budget drivers are shared contracted computer services, water/sewer, and snow removal. Ms. Rowe presented the budget with an overall increase of 9.65%. Ms. Rowe answered questions from the committee.
- Principal Brittany McGuire presented the budget for Crescent Lake School with an increase of 11.93%. She reported that the current student enrollment is 190, including the fully immersed 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students from Carpenter School, and that the building has three vacant support staff positions. The budget drivers are utilities and building care. She described the increase in snow removal and internet access from last year, as well as the much-needed bathroom floor replacement. Ms. McGuire answered questions from the committee.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:12pm.

Recorded by,



**Kathy Lagace**

School Board Secretary

Approved by School Board: **12/8/2025**