

*Originally approved by the Rye School Board at its December 21, 2007 meeting.
Reconsidered and re-approved with amendments at its January 16, 2008 meeting.*

**RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT
RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Budget review meetings of the School Board of the Rye School District were held at the SAU #50 Administrative Office on November 19th and 20th 2007.

November 20, 2007

PRESENT:

School Board Members: Ian Grant, Michael Schwartz, Gary Dodds,
Betty Anderson and Peggy Balboni

Administrators: George A. Cushing, Superintendent
Lane Richardson, Principal of Rye Elementary School
Mary Lyons, Director of Pupil Services
Jim Katkin, Business Administrator

Visitors: Tim Moynahan, Technology Coordinator, RJH

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Grant called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. and asked Tim Moynahan, Technology Coordinator to explain the budget request for a new phone system at Rye Junior High.

Mr. Moynahan explained the current limitations of the existing system. After questions and answers the Board thanked Mr. Moynahan for his presentation. Mr. Moynahan then answered questions regarding the proposed lease program.

Issues such as security and confidential information on the computer were discussed in regards to teacher laptops. The topic of the technology plan was discussed and the goal is to have an updated plan ASAP to share with the budget committee. Ms. Richardson clarified that the lease program is only for the Junior High.

Mr. Grant asked for an inventory of the current computers that shows when they were purchased and when they need to be replaced.

If the Board decided to present the lease in the budget and as a warrant article, it must go on a warrant article as it is a three-year commitment that will extend to future budgets.

Mr. Dodds requested that whatever is decided around computer purchases that all computers in both schools be presented together.

Mr. Moynahan left the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

District Wide Expenditures

Line 110-121 – Long-term substitute – Ms. Anderson asked why this line was zeroed out. Mr. Katkin explained that we could add up to \$25,000 based on historical data.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Mr. Dodds proposed, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, a motion to go into non-public session at 8:50 a.m. Vote: Unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

PUBLIC SESSION:

The Board re-entered public session at 9:05 a.m. on a motion by Mr. Dodds, seconded by Mrs. Balboni, to resume the budget review.

Line 2311-550 – Printing of annual report – this is a line that will be revisited for a cut.

Line 2620-110 – Custodial Supervisory Salary – Mr. Schwartz asked Mr. Katkin to justify the increase in this account. Mr. Katkin explained that the last searches for this position were not successful. He believes more money is needed to attract the type of person that we need.

Line 2721-519 – Pupil Transportation – Mr. Grant asked that the Board consider looking at the issue of after school transportation for students who are involved in after school activities.

Additionally, Mr. Grant noted that in the afternoon we have one less bus than in the morning. There are 8 buses in the afternoon, 9 in the morning. The bus committee would like the Board to consider adding the 9th bus back in order to cut student time on the busses.

N.H. retirement supplement for para-educators went down. Mr. Katkin explained the decrease is due to a change in personnel.

High School – no questions

Food Service – no questions

Request for Personnel

Title One teacher – the title one grant does not cover the full-cost of this position.

Junior High request – Part time custodian – 5 hours/day will restore the custodian level to the level it was two years ago. If we hire a supervisory custodian that person would replace an existing custodian.

Web designer – the Board sees the need to put an amount in the budget for support in this area on a consultant basis.

Decisions

Elementary Budget

Line 1108-321 - \$1,620.00 – Ms. Anderson made a motion to reduce funding for the Swim Safe program to zero. Mrs. Balboni, seconded the motion for discussion. Ms. Anderson and Mrs. Balboni asked Ms. Richardson

her opinion about the need for this program vs. the need for increased instructional time. Ms. Richardson spoke to the value she has seen. She said that seeing one child learn to swim who previously could not is an amazing thing. She also confirmed that the third grade year has many curricular demands and Swim Safe is a “huge loss of instructional time”. Ms. Anderson also stated that, while Swim Safe is a great program, she regrets that, due to increased curricular demands of the third grade year, everything cannot be accommodated into the existing school schedule. To cut this program would save the line of \$1,620.00 plus the cost of the bus, \$1,560.00. Vote: In favor: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Balboni, and Mr. Grant. Against: Mr. Dodds and Mr. Schwartz. The Board agreed that the school should ensure that third graders who need a swim program are able to participate in the Rye Recreation swim program. The Board will fund the program for third grade students if there is a financial need. The parameters for that would be discussed at a later meeting after Ms. Anderson speaks with the Recreation Commissioners about it.

Line 1410-595 Admission Fees – Ms. Richardson presented her best estimate of the cost to pay all elementary admissions, fees, and bus costs. Her estimate is \$13,594.50; of this amount \$9,800.00 is already in the budget. To fund everything the Board will have to add \$3,800.00.

Motion by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, to add \$5,000.00 to the line of Admission fees and busses. Vote passed unanimously.

Line 1410-321 – Artist in Residence – Ms. Anderson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, to zero out this line and move it to a district line. Vote passed unanimously.

Motion by Mrs. Balboni, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to remove the \$350.00 stipend for the elementary basketball coordinator. Vote passed unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Balboni, to add an RES Yearbook coordinator for \$1,200.00. Vote passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Mr. Dodds, to reduce the stipend for telephone communication support to zero. It is expected this would be part of the elementary technician's job. Vote: In favor: Mr. Grant, Mr. Schwartz, Mrs. Balboni, Mr. Dodds. Against: Ms. Anderson.

Motion by Ms. Anderson to eliminate two 5th grade basketball stipends, seconded by Mr. Grant for discussion. Motion withdrawn by Ms. Anderson after clarification that two additional teams are needed next year.

Motion by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Balboni, to increase the Literary Journal advisor stipend from \$450.00 to \$600.00. Vote passed unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Balboni, to add \$400.00 stipend for Literary Journal assistant. Vote passed unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, to add two more Destination Imagination stipends (\$900 each for total of \$1,800) at the elementary school. Ms. Anderson, speaking in favor of her motion, stated that she believes that any school sponsored program, like D.I. should be managed by school personnel with a guarantee for any student who wants to participate without a condition that their parent participate. Vote passed unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, to add a fifth grade basketball coach (\$400), teacher mentor (\$600), science curriculum lead teacher (\$800), social studies lead teacher (\$800), aquarium club (\$600), and reduce a teacher mentor (\$600). Vote passed unanimously.

Guidance Department and Health/Nursing Department Expenses

Motion by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Grant for discussion, for administrators to review both nursing (RN-LPN) and guidance and present a recommendation including a review of the school psychologist needs. Vote passed unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Balboni, to reduce Line 2213-246 – Professional Growth Other – from \$12,000.00 to \$8,000.00 as there is a mistake in the budget book. Vote passed unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Balboni, to increase Line 2142-323 – Psychological Testing – from \$3,200.00 to \$6,000.00 to give the Special Education Department more flexibility around external testing. Vote passed unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Balboni, to reduce technology contracted services from \$3,000.00 to \$1,000.00. Vote passed unanimously.

Line 2410-550 – Literary Journal – Motion by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Dodds, to add in the cost of publishing the journal (\$6,000). Vote passed unanimously. It was discussed as part of this that the School Board will ask the Journal committee to review the number that are printed—maybe one per family and additional as requested as opposed to one per child in the schools.

Motion by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Balboni, to increase the RES math specialist position from .6 to 1.0 – with additional time to be focused on the advanced learner. As part of the motion, the Board would like to see a job description/proposal from the Administration on what this position would look like. Vote passed unanimously.

Middle School

Discussion of world language around the need for .2 staff increase to the World Language Department. It was decided that Mr. Pollet should review the request for the additional .2 staffing to see if he can accomplish the schedule without the increase.

Motion by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to zero out Line 1410-321- Artist in Residence account at the middle school and establish a district account. Vote passed unanimously.

Admissions & Fees – Line 1410-595 – Mr. Pollet revised the cost for admission to Merrowvista to \$12,500. The bus is already budgeted. Ms. Anderson made a motion to increase this line by an additional \$30,000.00 to the current line to fully fund Merrowvista and 8th grade trip. Vote: In favor: Mr. Dodds, Mrs. Balboni, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Schwartz. Opposed: Mr. Grant because he is in favor of phasing the cost of the eighth grade trip in over time.

Motion by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Balboni, to increase the Destination Imagination Coordinator to the co-curricular salaries form from \$450 to \$600 on the middle school and RES lines. Vote passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Dodds, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, for the following actions:

Boys soccer coach	new	\$800
Boys basketball coach (7 th grade)	up	\$100
Boys basketball coach (6 th grade)	new	\$900
Girls basketball coach (7 th grade)	up	\$100
Girls basketball coach (6 th grade)	new	\$900
Track/Cross country (8 th grade)	up	\$100
Track/Cross country (7 th grade)	up	\$100
Track/Cross country (6 th grade)	up	\$100
Math club	up	\$300
Teach-in-charge	up	\$300

Vote passed unanimously.

Line 1420-618-20 – Athletic uniforms – On a motion by Mr. Dodds, seconded by Mrs. Balboni, to add \$2,000.00 to this account. Vote passed unanimously.

Line 2219-810 – Membership dues – On a motion by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Mr. Dodds, to add \$8,000 for the accreditation visit. This was mistakenly omitted from the budget. Vote passed unanimously.

Line 2225-340 – Contract services – On a motion by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Balboni, to reduce this line to \$1,000.00. Vote passed unanimously.

Line 4600-340-20 – Facility study – to explore renovations of the current Rye Junior High library. On a motion by Mr. Dodds, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, to add \$5,000.00 to this line. Vote passed unanimously.

High School – no changes

Food Services – no changes

District wide

Motion by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Dodds, to add an Artist-in-Residence line item to cover both schools in the amount of \$17,000.00. Vote passed unanimously.

Line 121-20 – Permanent substitute – Motion by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, to increase the permanent substitute line to \$25,000.00. Vote passed unanimously.

Line 2311-550 – Printing of annual report – Motion by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Ms. Anderson to reduce this line from \$7,800.00 to \$2,500.00. Electronic versions would be made available via email and web site; hard copies would be available at town locations for residents. Vote: Unanimously approved.

School Board Salaries

Motion by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Dodds, to reduce School Board salaries to \$5.00.

Vote: In favor: Ms. Anderson. Opposed: Mr. Dodds, Mrs. Balboni, Mr. Schwartz. Abstained: Mr. Grant.

Motion by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Mr. Dodds, to create a new line (web development consultant) in the amount of \$3,000.00. Vote passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Dodds, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, to fix the sound system at both schools (in the amount of \$15,000.00). Vote: In favor: Mr. Dodds and Ms. Anderson. Opposed: Mr. Grant, Mrs. Balboni, Mr. Schwartz. The Board will to try to purchase this in the current year.

Motion by Mr. Dodds, seconded by Ms. Anderson for discussion purposes, to add 5 hours to part-time custodian at Rye Junior High.

Vote: In favor: Mr. Dodds. Opposed: Mr. Grant, Ms. Anderson, Mrs. Balboni, Mr. Schwartz.

Discussion to increase Spanish position by 20% tabled.

Motion by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to create new position, Tutor (2.25 hours/week) to address advanced learner needs. Vote passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Mrs. Balboni, to create new position, Web Designer. Vote: Yes: 0, No: 5.

Warrant Articles

Article I – Motion to approve by Mr. Dodds, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, to approve the \$11,713,178 operating budget for 2008-09. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Article II – needs to reflect 5 years. Motion to approve the RESPA Contract Warrant with that correction by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Schwartz. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Article III – okay as is

Article IV – Lease Agreement – Motion by Ms. Anderson to lease computer equipment for the middle school and to add 21 teacher laptops for elementary school into the warrant article. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Motion by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Grant, to have a four-year lease. Vote passed unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, to reduce 1 Computer on Wheels (24 computers) and 1 cart. Vote passed unanimously.

Motion on the wording of Article IV should reflect lease only. Vote passed unanimously.

Mr. Grant asked Mr. Katkin to check with DRA to see if he can change the order of money in the warrant article wording. Discussion occurred to place this in the budget as in prior years and not have as a warrant article. It was also discussed that the warrant article 5 for \$50,000 be removed.

Motion by Mr. Dodds, seconded by Mr. Grant, to put Article IV back into the budget and to not lease the equipment. Vote passed unanimously.

As the budget stands it reflects an increase of 4.69%.

Motion by Mr. Dodds, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to *not* include Article V. Vote passed unanimously.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Mr. Dodds proposed, seconded by Ms. Anderson, a motion to go into non-public session at 12:40 p.m. Vote: Unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

PUBLIC SESSION:

The Board re-entered public session at 12:50 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, to resume the budget review.

Motion by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Grant, to let Verizon make a short 15 minute presentation to the Board on the identified property in the back (without access through school property). Vote passed unanimously.

The Board tabled a discussion and vote on Mrs. Costanzo's request to retire and work an 80% position.

ADJOURN:

Ms. Anderson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Schwartz at 1:05 p.m. Vote: Unanimously approved.

School Board Secretary