

**School Administrative Unit #64
Milton and Wakefield Public Budget Hearing
Wednesday, November 19, 2014
Paul School Auditorium**

Milton School Board:

Ann Walsh, Brandy Banks, Andy Crone, Douglas Shute, Paul Steer

Wakefield School Board:

Norma Joy, Bonnie Cyr, Stephen Brown, Relf Fogg

Administration:

Michael Tursi – Superintendent of SAU #64, Anne Kebler – Student Services Director,
Nathan Castle – Business Administrator

Visitors:

Priscilla Colbath, Judy Nason, Bruce Rich, Jerry O'Connor, Bob Adams, Tim Eldridge

Filming by:

Ed Comeau with governmentoversite.com

Bonnie Cyr called this meeting to order at 6:04pm and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review of the first draft of the Fiscal Year 2016 proposed budget.

- ❖ Overall increase from Fiscal Year 2015 budget is 1.2%.
- ❖ Salary increases are based on a 3-year COLA average of 2%.
- ❖ Health insurance is based on a 2.5% estimated increase over 2014-2015 rates.
- ❖ Retirement rate for teachers is 15.67% and support staff is 11.7%.
- ❖ Worker's Comp. is based on a 2% increase in salaries plus a 5% estimated increase over 2014-2015 rates, totaling a 7% increase.
- ❖ Unemployment is based on a 28.9% increase over 2014-2015 rates.
- ❖ Rental of Facility is based on a 1.5-year lease from Exit 17 Commerce Center, LLC.
- ❖ Technical Services are based on our contract with BackBay and Blackboard plus an additional \$6000.00 for a Web Designer.
- ❖ The Business Administrator's salary and benefits were removed and a new line was added titled "Contracted Services" with an amount of \$96,000.00. This amount is based on a contract with MRI.
- ❖ Close to \$115,000.00 is the total difference in SAU cost in FY2015-2016.
- ❖ SAU currently has close to \$200,000.00 surplus. Of this amount \$50,000.00 is to be returned proportionately to Milton and Wakefield.

- ❖ Judy Nason felt that the surplus money should remain with the SAU. If the SAU separates, then that money could be used towards the setup of individual SAU's.
- ❖ SAU warrant article – will it include IDEA fund and Bright Beginnings fund? Response: yes.
- ❖ Money for Bright Beginnings is raised separately by Milton and Wakefield and therefore may not need to be in the SAU Warrant.
- ❖ Bright Beginnings money is raised separately but given to the SAU. The SAU needs to show how that money is dispersed.
- ❖ SAU staff salaries are in proportion to surrounding areas. The salaries are actually lower than the surrounding area SAU's.
- ❖ Web designer line questioned as cost is not finalized.
- ❖ Blackboard is the Alert Now system.
- ❖ Insurance increase is lower than anticipated.
- ❖ Commissioner's Conference was held at the Mountainview Grand. Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Kebler and Mr. Tursi were to attend. Only Mr. Tursi attended this year.
- ❖ BackBay cost: 70% is paid from the SAU budget. Of the remaining 30%, 56% is the cost for Wakefield and 44% is Milton's cost.
- ❖ Question: Should Milton's share of the BackBay cost be more as there are two schools in Milton as compared to one school in Wakefield? Response: The proportion of the cost is based on decisions by earlier administrations and boards.
- ❖ SAU car:
 - ✓ Actual yearly cost of the vehicle is \$1,400.00.
 - ✓ Looking into the sale of the vehicle.
 - ✓ Suggested that SAU employees should not be paid mileage if they chose not to use the available car.
 - ✓ Individual's mileage is due to the person going directly from home to a meeting or conference. Usually it is quicker to go directly from home than to go pick up the care at the SAU.
 - ✓ If individual took the SAU car home; their primary car would be left at the SAU. Then the individual would not be able to conduct personal business or have their family in the car belonging to the SAU. This would present a hardship on the individual.
 - ✓ Board meeting to vote on the warrant article, next meeting is December 10, 2014. Meeting will be held in Milton at 5:00pm.
 - ✓ Why are the grants not on the budget? Response: Clarification is needed on this question.

Andy Crone made the motion to adjourn this meeting at 6:35pm. Brandy Banks seconded this motion. The board voted in favor as follows: Joy – aye, Brown – aye, Cyr – aye, Fogg – aye, Walsh – aye, Banks – aye, Crone – aye, Shute – aye, Steer – aye.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Seldin
Recording secretary