

**Minutes of
Litchfield Budget Committee Meeting**

Held on May 22, 2008

Present: B Lemire (Chairman), J Harte (Vice Chairman), P Parker, D Miller, B McCue, R Peeples

Absent: G Lambert (Selectmen's representative), M Falzone

Mr. Lemire called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: by J. Harte

Move to approve the minutes of March 27, 2008 Budget Committee Meeting as written

SECOND: R. Peeples

VOTE: 6-0-0

MOTION: by P Parker

Move to approve the minutes of January 11, 2008 Budget Committee Meeting as written

SECOND: B. McCue

VOTE: 6-0-0 ()

MOTION: by J. Harte

Move to approve the minutes of January 11, 2008 Budget Committee Hearing as written

SECOND: D. Miller

VOTE: 6-0-0 ()

The approval of the minutes for the meeting of April 24th was deferred until next meeting so that the minutes can be updated according to previously submitted amendments made by Mr. Harte.

3. TOWN BUSINESS

Due to no representation from the Selectmen's office, the discussion of Town business was deferred until the next meeting. Mr. Lemire requested that if any

member has questions for the town, to have the questions submitted to him via e-mail and he will pass them along to be answered at the next meeting.

4. SCHOOL BUSINESS

Mr. Miller handed out the URS Indoor Air Quality Report for GMS for review. Questions can be submitted to the Chairman via e-mail for follow-up at the next meeting.

Mr. Miller handed our financial reports for the month of April.

Mr. Miller spoke about funds which were encumbered to deal with the traffic flow at the high school and the changes to be made at Highlander intersection to not impede traffic. There are also changes made to the south parking lot. There is a temporary stop sign in the lot which will become permanent; along with the one-way behind the school will also become permanent. There will be a power gate installed for bus and emergency access at a cost of \$12,000. There was \$25,000 allocated for parking lot enhancements to compliment the changes.

Mr. Miller stated that there was a purchase of a new lawn tractor for \$4,000. Mr. Miller stated that there was \$49,000 spent on the installation of fences around the fields to prevent unauthorized access. There will be pedestrian gates installed.

Mr. Lemire asked if any of these purchases were budgeted, in which Mr. Miller provided a breakdown on what was budgeted and what was not included in the budget.

Mr. Miller stated that the letter of accreditation was received and this will be good until 2018.

In addition, Mr. Miller stated that Campbell High School was the 10th school to become a NH Scholar school. This program certifies that a curriculum has been followed by the school which will help students when applying for federal funds. There was more discussion surrounding this subject as what criteria was required to meet the certification, and how it is recognized by 20 states.

Mr. Harte asked about boiler problems at GMS, and whether it had any financial impact to the school. Mr. Miller stated that they did have a problem with the unit, and it was discussed in the previous night's meeting, but stated that the problem has not been resolved yet because they are trying to go through the logistics on how to repair the unit due to the placement of the unit being in front of a unit which is old as well. Mr. Miller stated that Mr. Martin stated that if the unit has to be replaced it will be approximately \$40,000.

Mr. Miller stated that the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Results came out, and gave an overview of the results of the report. Mr. Miller explained that the report does not track by student, but by class.

Mr. Miller stated that graduation is June 13th.

Mr. Miller stated that there will be computers and textbooks being retired and given to the community on the 31st at GMS. Mr. Miller stated that the technology which has been given away has been retired and is no longer any use to the school system.

5. REVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Mr. Lemire stated that Ms. Ober had forwarded by e-mail updates to the recent legislation. Mr. Lemire reminded the group that this tends to change on a daily basis, and that the group should be aware of that fact.

Mr. Harte asked for clarification from Mr. Miller on the Adequate Education Funding Bill (SB 539) and the impact to the town of Litchfield. Mr. Miller confirmed that for the next two years there will be no reduction in aid, but by 2011 there will be a \$2MM reduction in aid to the Town of Litchfield if the bill is signed in the current format. Mr. Lemire stated that for the \$2MM to be taken away from the town of Litchfield, it may take the passing of a constitutional amendment.

Mr. Miller stated that representatives from the Litchfield School Board will be meeting with the Governor to discuss the current impacts to the Town of Litchfield's School District. Mr. Lemire requested that the concerns of the Budget Committee be raised at the meeting with regards to the Kindergarten bill which would allow school districts to bypass the budget process for the establishment of Kindergarten services.

6. MEMBER INPUT

There was no member input.

MOTION: by Mr. Miller

To adjourn the meeting

SECOND: Mr. Parker

VOTE: 6-0-0

The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 26th, 2008 at 7:00 PM

Minutes compiled by: *Mr. John Harte (Vice Chairman)*