

Nottingham Budget Committee Meeting

10-6-22

Approved 11/3/2022

1 **Call to Order**

2 Members Present: Michelle King (Chair), John Decker (Vice Chair), Sandra Jones, Tom
3 Butkiewicz, Michael Kelly, Owen Friend-Gray, Jeffrey Morrison, Kathy Brosnan (School Board
4 rep)

5 Absent: Tom Leveille, Bob Kelly, John Morin (Select Board rep)

6 Others: Lorraine Petrini

7 The Chair opened the meeting at 7pm.

8 Approve Minutes

9 **Ms. Jones made a motion to approve the public minutes from 4-14-22 as amended. Mr.**
10 **Friend-Gray seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 7-1 with Ms. Brosnan**
11 **abstaining.**

12 **Ms. Jones made a motion to approve the public minutes from 9-1-22 as written. Mr.**
13 **Friend-Gray seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 8-1.**

14 **School FY22 unaudited expense and revenue reports**

15 Ms. Brosnan said the subs line was increased because they had to increase the pay to gain subs. It
16 is increased by \$100k. Dr. Butkiewicz asked if the teachers were taking more time off or if they
17 had to increase pay to get teachers. Dr. Butkiewicz asked if the teachers test themselves or if the
18 school requires a positive test. Ms. Brosnan did not know. Ms. Brosnan said that the teachers get
19 6 days of sick time a year. Mr. Decker said the teacher salary line is over \$100k. Dr. Butkiewicz
20 asked why they were over. Ms. Brosnan said they hired teachers at higher steps than those who
21 were leaving. Ms. King said the librarian salary was over budget by \$10k. Ms. Brosnan said she
22 may have taken a course and got a step increase. Dr. Butkiewicz asked if the courses are
23 required. Ms. Brosnan said some are required and some teachers choose to take courses. Mr.
24 Decker said they have to do a certain number of hours each year but they can choose to go above
25 and beyond to move up in steps. Ms. Jones said they need to maintain their credentials. Dr.
26 Butkiewicz asked if there are free options. Ms. Brosnan said there are some. The free options are
27 done within the school and are typically teacher workshop days. Those are not masters or
28 undergrad courses. Dr. Butkiewicz said that teacher workshop days would work out well for the
29 school since the contract stipulates that the teachers get paid more then. Mr. Decker said it is the
30 same for Dr. Butkiewicz and how he gets more money as he gains more education in his job as
31 well. Ms. King said it should be noted in the budget. Ms. Brosnan said the step increased due to
32 the courses taken may not show up till the next year. Ms. King said they should add this to the
33 budget somewhere so it's clear. Mr. Decker said it's difficult because the budget is done ahead of
34 time. Mr. Morrison said they should be anticipating these classes. Ms. Brosnan said there were
35 teachers hired that needed further certifications. Mr. Friend-Gray asked if they could budget
36 these things. Dr. Butkiewicz said they are always getting under-estimates. Mr. Decker asked for

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37 more clarification on what changed in those lines. Ms. King asked where the superintendent's
38 salary is on the budget. Ms. Brosnan said the superintendent was hired in July but worked as a
39 contract employee before that.

40 Dr. Butkiewicz asked if there were big issues at the school with paras. Ms. Brosnan said one para
41 died last year. They are usually required by the state and the paras are usually working one on
42 one with students. Dr. Butkiewicz said they could reduce that number in the budget by 20%
43 because they have been working with less this past year. Dr. Butkiewicz said they should look at
44 any column with more than 1 digit increase.

45 Mr. Friend-Gray asked about the tuition for high school. Ms. Brosnan said the kids are asked
46 where they want to go to high school, and they have to estimate before the kids actually attend.
47 CBNA has higher tuition and is a public private academy. Mr. Kelly asked about the reg ed and
48 why it was over \$50k. Ms. Brosnan said they will check into that line as it may have gone into a
49 wrong line.

50 Dr. Butkiewicz asked about spec ed line. It was over \$100k. Ms. Brosnan said there was one
51 student who had to go out of district. Dr. Butkiewicz said he is stunned by the one student who
52 costs so much; last year it was \$100k for transportation. Ms. Brosnan said that last year two
53 towns shared the cost of transportation for 2 students but now the other student from Nottingham
54 is alone for cost of transportation. Mr. Decker asked if they are using the reserve funds to offset
55 some of these costs. The answer was yes. Ms. King said she can write down questions for school
56 board as well if Ms. Brosnan doesn't have the answers.

57 Dr. Butkiewicz spoke about the \$157k for transportation for out of district child. Mr. Kelly asked
58 if the federal government requires this and if they pay for it. Ms. Brosnan said they provide some
59 but not all. Ms. King asked on page 8, contracted services line and maintenance which were both
60 over. Ms. Brosnan said one was for the heating. Ms. Brosnan said they spent a lot for COVID
61 related. They may get money from the state. Ms. King asked when they will find out if the town
62 qualifies for that. Ms. Brosnan said they know already. Mr. Decker asked about another line that
63 was over budget for principal and another line. The telephones were replaced which is why that
64 line was over. Mr. Morrison said the furniture line was very high. Dr. Butkiewicz said the front
65 office got new desks. Ms. Brosnan said Gasby is done every couple of years. Dr. Butkiewicz
66 asked if this will cost the school money if they don't get a clean audit.

67 Dr. Butkiewicz said the electricity was over; he asked if they are looking into cutting costs. He
68 asked about shutting lights in the parking lot. He suggested motion lights. He said the
69 Conservation Commission may have ideas about this. Ms. Brosnan said they have looked into
70 solar but that is down the road. Dr. Butkiewicz said the school is not pursuing any bonds so they
71 won't look into a school addition this year. There was discussion about bus costs. The DHS has
72 one bus; CBNA has 2 buses and the elementary is supposed to have 8 but has 7. There are more
73 kids at CBNA. Mr. Kelly asked about the health care buyouts. Ms. Brosnan explained that they
74 buy out employees so they don't use the school's insurance; this saves money. Mr. Decker asked
75 about page 9 construction services. Ms. Brosnan said this was to refit the conference room. Dr.

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Butkiewicz asked page 1 fund balance. Ms. Brosnan said they don't know what that is right now. It is \$120k. Dr. Butkiewicz asked if it was fund balance. Dr. Butkiewicz asked about unspent fund balance in the budget. Ms. Brosnan left the meeting. Ms. King said that people need to be respectful.

There was a discussion about the leftover money totaling \$529K. Ms. Jones suggested going through page by page instead of jumping around. Dr. Butkiewicz said the School Board said they should be able to give the BC a different type of report that will make it easier. Mr. Kelly asked if there are large numbers in lines that are over every year. Dr. Butkiewicz said the teacher negotiations are going on now. It was decided that the superintendent would be invited to an upcoming meeting.

Town Third Quarter Financials

Mr. Morin is at not at the meeting.

Committee Reports

School Facilities

Capital Improvement Plan

School Board Rep

Board of Selectman Rep

Other

Parting Thoughts

Next Meeting:

Adjourn

made a motion to adjourn at pm. seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0.