



**Regional School Unit 13  
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March 29, 2012

**RSU 13 School Board Budget Committee Meeting**

**Minutes - March 28, 2012**

**Minutes & Questions asked and answered 3/28/2012**

**Q: Question asked A: Answer S: Statement made**

Greg Hamlin called the meeting to order and handed over to Brian Messing as Chair of the Budget Committee

All Board members were present

Committee approved the minutes from the March 26, 2012 Budget Committee meeting.

Scott Vaitones gave a recap of deductions and corrections to the budget. He then reviewed the new material that was at each Board seat.

There was no public comment

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

S: By a Board member: Do not agree with publishing names with salaries in the budget documents. A: Scott answered that it is how he has laid out budgets for over 20 years. It creates absolute transparency.

Beth Chamberlin started the evening with an overview of how the budget process was used with the administrators. She then went on to outline events and instructional offerings at Cushing Community School and Lura Libby School.

Q: There is one full time custodian at Cushing for 13,800 sq feet in Cushing and one custodian for 22,000 at Lura Libby.

A: Beth noted that a ½ time custodian was cut from Lura Libby two years ago and she had asked to restore that position for next year. Lura Libby is too big for one person. She also noted the custodian at Cushing drives a bus for at least one hour of the eight

Q: Lura Libby has the highest cost per square foot of any school to heat. Is the building comfortable?

A: Yes, it is stream heat. It is also an older building with the original school having been built in 1953/54.

Q: If parents ask to transfer their child to Lura Libby because of CIP's status at the school they currently attend, can you accommodate that?

A: We would look at the specific grade and see with we could.

Mary Alice McLain presented an overview of the St. George School and Gilford Butler School budgets. She noted at St. George that there is \$14,000 included for Expeditionary Learning. The money is part of the school's per pupil allocation for supplies and books.

Q: Is there enough money budgeted for substitute teachers?

A: We but by building each year but can never predict where the actual cost will occur. At the end of the year some substitute accounts are overspent and some under spent. The allocation is based on what has been spent district wide in the pasta.

Q: Do teachers who do curriculum work during the day get additional pay?

A: No.

Q: Are teachers being pulled out of their classrooms a lot?

A: Try to balance the impact on the classroom and the need for professional development.

S: Need to watch enrollments at K and 1<sup>st</sup> at Gilford Butler School.

S: Gilford Butler School is the only school in the District that does not offer a foreign language.

S: There is one full time custodian at Gilford Butler and the school is only 11,041 square feet and is the most costly to operate based on per square foot and is ½ the square footage of Lura Libby.

A: Noted that custodian also sets up lunch, helps serve lunch, covers office and numerous other functions.

Susan Stilwell presented an overview of the Owls Head Central School and Thomaston Grammar School budgets.

Q: Has moving the Owls Head 5<sup>th</sup> grade to Rockland District Middle School been considered?

A: It has not been discussed at this point.

Q: Would it make for a better programming at RDMS for the students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Owls Head??

A: The 5<sup>th</sup> grades at OHCS miss out on health and Industrial Arts that are offered at RDMS.

S: Discussions need to be done in a timely manner.

S: Rockland District Middle School is way underutilized.

Q: Why are books so much higher than last year at Owls Head Central?

A: Daybook is an added item. And highly used at Thomaston Grammar School. A Daybook is a story a day with an exercise at the end.

Q: What is a difference between classroom library and school library?

A: Each teacher maintains a library of available books in their rooms' that are readily available to students. There is also the school library.

Susan noted that Thomaston Grammar currently has a grade 5 through 8 Life Skills program, a grades 5 through 7 Behavioral program and a grades 5 through 8 Alternative Education program. Also 5 – 7 behavior program

Q: Does Thomaston Grammar School have an Expeditionary Learning (EL) program?

A: Thomaston Grammar was an EL school for 3 years

Q: How much spending on el at tgs this year ?

A: Zero - The staff has continued with what they have learned and have done this on their own.

S: Looking at implementing standards based grading next year.

S: The staff believe in EL and they work hard at implementing what they have learned. It is a pricy program and becomes part of the balancing act of what to fund.

Q: Is it sustainable without future funding?

A: Not sure, I only came into the school a year and a half ago. It was actually implemented by Mary Alice McLean when she was Principal of Thomaston Grammar.

S: Audible listener listed twice in technology.

Q: Do we have different curriculum at same grade level around the District?

A: Yes

Q: Are the programs equivalent?

S: Thomaston Grammar School has a lot of available space .

A: It houses some very specialized programs such as Alternative Education, Life Skills and the Behavioral program.

Q: Are special education students in the building and classroom enrollment counts?

A: Yes

S: It is important for the board to identify how each space is being used

Todd Martin presented an overview of the South School budget. He noted that every inch of South School is being used and that there is an Autism program and Behavioral program at South School. The school also has a Literacy Coach and Reading Recovery teacher.

Q: It appears you have 2 partial Art teachers, why?

A: Last year the Principals who had more than one building thought it would be better if they had the same itinerant teacher sat both schools. That created a lot of fragmented pieces. We currently in discussion of how to better place all of the itinerants.

Q: Why are you requesting another phone line you already have 4 lines?

A: Actually, we only have three. I will check to see if, indeed we have an unused line at South.

Q: Would like some explanation of why software contracts are so different from school to school?

A: to follow.

Q: Why annual tech spot at Lura Libby?

Q: If South School is on city sewer, why is there money in the budget to do tank work?

A: The tank is the oil tank. Verbiage in descriptor at South should not have the word septic in it. This was a copy and paste that I missed.

S: Need to check with fire department to be sure it is OK to hang carpets on the walls.

S: Need to know the capacity and utilization of all buildings. Some of schools really underutilized and it is important to maximize use of buildings so we can free up dollars for technology, teacher training

Q: Asked of Don about the per square foot cost sheets that he passed out: Is the per pupil cost based on all spaces or just instructional spaces?

A: All space

S: It is hard to compare when you look at schools like Owls Head and Gilford Butler that don't have gyms and only have a multipurpose room that serves as cafeteria, gym, music, auditorium.

S: We need to look at which schools are meeting academic standards which are on CIPS  
Is goal to cut cost or to educate?

S: Have to look at student mix at each school each school has a different set of problems

Requested to have updated budgets before April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Recessed at 8:10PM