

Stewartstown School Board							
Special Budget Committee Meeting Minutes							
Date		January 10, 2024					
Time		5:07 pm					
Location		Stewartstown Community School					
Chairperson		Allen Coats					
Attendance							
Attendance Legend: P – Present at SCS A – Absent Z – Via Zoom C – Cell Phone Representatives: B – School Board S – Selectman W – Water Precinct							
School Board		Budget Committee		Budget Committee		SAU Members	
P	Betsy Gray	S	Allen Coats (5:30)	P	Landon Placey	P	Debra Taylor
P	Philip Pariseau	W	Danny Laflamme	P	Robert Ladd	A	Bridget Cross
P	Courtney Sierad	B	Philip Pariseau				
Public in Attendance: Patricia Grover, School Board Minutes Taker							

In the absence of Chairman, Allen Coats, Robert Ladd opened the meeting at 5:07 pm.

Bridget Cross, SAU 7 Business Manager, introduced herself and proceeded to present the proposed budget to the Budget Committee.

1. The Pupil Report, which shows the project number of students in each school for a total of 91 students. This also included the per student tuition rates for each school: Canaan Memorial High School - \$23,000; Canaan CTE - \$11,500; Colebrook Academy - \$22,900; Pittsburg High School - \$21,100; Unanticipated Tuition - \$23,000 (students in high school who may move into Stewartstown during the school year) We will also have one student at the Charter Academy and one who is an out-of-district placement.
2. She reviewed the projected Budget Summary and Tax Rate Comparison for last year, this year, and next year. Variance of \$2.22 for school rate.
3. Next report was the Budget Variances Explanation for the FY25 proposed budget. We are looking for a part-time Physical Education teacher as Colebrook cannot share their teacher next year. The Pittsburg teacher is also not available.
4. Lastly, she reviewed the draft of the Warrant and the open positions for School District Officials.

Questions were asked about the budget for last year, the Capital Reserve Fund for the bus, and the amount teachers pay for their insurance.

Allen stated that people paying their taxes complain about the school costs. He also stated he has faith in the school board and that they are doing their best to keep costs down.

State doesn't provide like they used to. State Aid that used to come to public education now is shared with private and charter schools and Home Schoolers who are entitled to get their money before any other school. Charter and Private Schools get more money than they used to.

Debra explained the two lawsuits that have taken place over this school year. Conval suit involved Adequacy Aid being too low. Court agreed. The second one, Rand vs State of NH, states that SWEPT (Statewide Education Property Tax) tax is unconstitutional.

Landon Placey stated that a sales tax would raise more money, but no one seems to be in favor of that.

New Hampshire high school graduates must pass the citizenship exam before they can get their diploma.

A. Coats/D. Laflamme: Move to accept the FY 25 School District Budget as presented.
VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

P. Pariseau/D. Laflamme: To adjourn the meeting at 5:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia E. Grover
School Board Minutes Taker

Board Adopted: February 5, 2024