

**LEBANON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BUDGET/FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE  
LEBANON MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER  
FEBRUARY 7, 2018 – SPECIAL MEETING 6:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE:**

PRESENT: Jason Nowosad, Bill Meese, Dawn Whitcher, Alexis Margerelli-Hussey

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Robert Angeli, Robert Sirpenski, Business Manager, Kathleen Smith, Liz Charon (Board of Finance), Rob Laskarzewski, Principal LMS

1. Called to order:  
The Budget/Finance Subcommittee was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by William Meese.
2. Mr. Angeli and Mr. Sirpenski went over the briefing sheet that aggregated savings from the FY 18-19 school budget proposal to a total of \$775,000 and reached the goal of a 1% increase over current FY. A handout entitled “Budget Adjustments to Get to 1%” was presented by the Superintendent and used for talking points.
3. Liz Charon gave Board of Finance budget briefing to subcommittee. Liz was initially invited to speak on the BoF letter to the BoE dated January 17, 2018, requesting the BoE consider a flat budget proposal. Since that original letter was sent, the Governor released his initial numbers concerning total grant funding for the towns of CT. The Governor’s initial grant moneys for the town of Lebanon for FY 18-19 are down significantly. Liz also provided various historical budgetary concerns to provide the new members some perspective on the issues affecting the town budget and thereby the school budget. Liz provided some good news that the Lebanon Grand List went up so tax revenue should increase by around \$600,000.
4. Various Budget discussion points: The merging of two separate bus runs into one larger run was dismissed. M&J estimated that one consolidated run would actually be more costly than two runs due to the number of students and the need for increased busses. Largest risk to budget planning remains the employee health benefits: schools will need to go out to bid, seek a new health benefits system and or carrier, and the timing of this process is concurrent with the town’s budget process. Also, if we change health benefits system, the contracts will need to be reopened to affect the change. Lebanon local student enrollment appears to be trending lower of the next 5 years; much emphasis will be needed to recruit students from other towns into the district to increase out-of-town tuition.

**Motion made by Bill Meese and seconded by J. Nowosad to present the school budget to the Board of Education with the 1% increase over current FY.**

**Discussion:** Jason felt that a 1% budget would be too aggressive in this budget climate and recommended something lower perhaps a flat or .5% increase. Dawn agreed with Jason that it would be difficult to support a 1% increase in the budget climate but desire to preserve services. Alexis emphasized the need to retain services despite the budget climate. Alexis stated that we need to have a good product with which to attract students from other towns and to keep Lebanon kids in district. Alexis suggested submitting the budget to the Board as is but to provide options for the Board to vote on that would achieve a flat budget. Dawn and Jason agreed to provide options to get to a flat budget.

Bill Meese withdrew the motion to submit a 1% increase budget to the Board of Education.

**Motion by Bill Meese and seconded by Dawn Whitcher to submit a 1% increase over current FY budget to the Board of Education and to have alternatives available to get to a flat budget if necessary.**

**Discussion:** Superintendent and Bob Sirpenski reviewed the risks inherent in the unknowns of this current budget proposal. Alexis reiterated the members of the Board and the public need to see alternatives, so that they understand what would be given up.

**Motioned passed unanimously.**

5. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7.20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Meese, Chair