

**Allenstown School Public Hearing
January 17, 2009**

The Budget Committee held a Public Hearing for the School Department 2009 budget on January 17, 2009.

David Eaton, Chairman of the Budget committee, opened the meeting at 11:03 PM. He introduced members of the budget committee present at the meeting: Sandra McKenney, Vice-Chairman; Don Chaput, Penny Touchette, Henriette Girard, Bill Barnett, Richard Lamarche, Jason Tardiff, and Carl Schaefer representing the School Board in place of Sted Holton who was absent; and Roger LaFleur, Selectmen representative.

David read **Article 1** of the School warrant: Shall the District vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant article and other operations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$9,993,048.00? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$9,978,559.00, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the school district, or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA40:13, X and XV1, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. School Board and Budget Committee approved.

The meeting was turned over to Thomas Irzyk, Chairman of the School Board, who presented the budget showing increases and decreases to the budget. The budget as presented has increased by \$14,488.00. Lines discussed were the Non-certified personnel, number of students in each school; the new Assistant Principal, Joseph Vignola, the number of students in each class, the number of teachers and aides, travel workshops, and the Grant Assistant. Citizens asking questions were Pauline Boutin, Kim Carbonneau, Jim Boisvert, Kim Foss, Dawn Labrecque, and others whose name were not recorded. Roger LaFleur inquired about a numbers study and Tom Irzyk said none has been done recently. A suggestion was made by Pauline Boutin to house all the children from both schools at AES. Tom Irzyk mentioned that we have had some grants this year, Safety grants and Security grants. Traffic will be taken into consideration; there will be sidewalks on both sides of the street and bus traffic will be re-aligned. Roger LaFleur asked for a 5 year surplus study, including what they have spent and what they returned for offsetting taxes.

Article 2: Shall the District vote to raise and appropriate the cost items set forth in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Allenstown School Board and the Allenstown Paraprofessional Association for the 2009-/10 fiscal year which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits:

Year 2009/10 \$41,026.00

And further raise and appropriate the sum of \$41,026.00 for the 2009/10 fiscal

year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year? School Board and Budget Committee recommend approval.

This is for the teacher aides, secretaries, custodians, etc. who did not get a raise last year because of the default budget. If passed, the raise will be 3 ½%.

Article 3: Shall the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$10,000 (from surplus) to be added to the Building Maintenance Trust fund previously established, with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2009 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2009. School Board and Budget Committee recommend approval.

No questions.

Article 4: Shall the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$10,000 (from surplus) to be added to the Facilities Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund previously established, with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2009 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2009. School Board and Budget Committee recommend approval.

No questions.

Article 5: To see if the School district will vote to discontinue the Claremont Trust Fund created in 1996. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal are to be transferred to School District surplus for 2008-09. School Board and Budget Committee recommend approval.

The balance in the account is \$7,173.19. No other comments.

The School Budget Hearing closed at 12:18 PM.