

**The Hudson City School District
Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes
10/26/11**

I. Call to order

The monthly meeting was held in the Junior High School Library.

II. Roll Call

In attendance were: Kelly Frank, Jeri Chapman, Dan Barrett, Jack Howe and Wayne (last name?).

III. Items discussed

Reviewed: We began by reviewing the items for the next meeting from our last meeting's minutes:

We will receive the budget estimate at our next meeting on 11/14.

Dan and Jack reported about the tax cap training – going through the formula puts our district at 3-5% tax levy increase, but politically it would be difficult to ask for more than 2% because everyone is calling it a 2% tax cap.

Dan provided a list of positions that are paid for by grant; the list shows how much of each salary/benefits come from a particular grant. The committee would like to see this information incorporated into the budget book this year to debunk the popular notion that there is “double-dipping”. Note: even if a grant position is eliminated, the district adheres to the seniority rules for firing teachers.

Agenda items:

The preliminary dates for community meetings have been set. We discussed the content of the 1st meeting on 11/16 from 6-8pm:

- Explanation of 2% tax cap
- Budget 101 presentation – including graphs
- Results of survey from last election
- Discussion of big items to cut: music, sports, arts, transportation, humanities
- Comparative “roll-up” to last year
- Estimated of numbers for budget/gap
- List of positive and negative influences on budget
- Update of history – what has been cut over the past 3 years

Advertising for meetings should help achieve optimum attendance. Will advertise in radio stations, Ch. 11, newspapers, Columbia-County to do.com

We will carve out a place for budget news on the website and in our normal board meeting schedule. We may want to include a feedback button on the website or put out a survey at some point.

Walking school bus – as it was last year, this is not designed as a replacement for routes, so it is not a cost saver. We will likely need to vote on the 1.5 mile radius no bus zone. Regardless of what happens with the vote, the walking school bus is a healthy program and should continue to be nurtured.

School-based budgeting – this is the “silos” method of budgeting. To some extent, the district already does this – for example, if 10% of the budget needs to be cut, it would be distributed evenly across the schools and other budget areas. There is no real motivation for changing the way the district budgets; all budgets would still need to be rolled into one. Additionally, the silo method of budgeting contradicts the school-wide efforts to integrate and consolidate operations across buildings.

Fundraising – we do have a 501c3 foundation. Perhaps we could have a fun fair in the spring or some other event to fundraise. Who would organize this? Perhaps we could contact LaRue associates to see if they do any pro bono work on grant-writing.

IV. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

Next meeting will be on Nov. 21st at 5:30 in the Junior High Library.

Minutes by Jeri Chapman