

Wakefield Budget Committee Meeting

February 3, 2021

Zoom meeting

Approved

Members present via Zoom: Jerry O'Connor, Priscilla Colbath, Paul Romano, Relf Fogg, Dave Mankus and Denny Miller and Elizabeth Conner

School Administration present: Marie D'Agostino

Public Present: Community members and Jim Miller with Clearview Community TV

Mr. O'Connor opened up the Budget Committee meeting at 6:40.

Mr. O'Connor said everyone knows of the change made at Deliberative Session. The School operating budget is now \$11,335,512. Mr. O'Conner asked the School Budget Committee representative if the Board had voted on this article tonight. Mr. Fogg replied they did and it was not recommended by a vote of 2-3. Mr. Romano asked if the change in the operating budget gets voted down does their whole budget get voted down. Mr. O'Connor explained that if this article gets voted down the school will go to their default budget which is \$11,240,736 and about \$100,000 less than their new operating budget. Mr. Miller said the School Board said, in effect, they want the default budget.

Mrs. Colbath said we usually deduct monies from the tuition line for high school students because of attrition or whatever means. There is never as many graduating then what is budgeted for. Right now, they are five down from what they budgeted for at the beginning of the budget season. That is about \$75,000 if you subtract that from their default budget the default budget it would be about \$1,900 less that what the requested in their original budget.

Mr. Miller asked Mrs. Colbath why they make a forecast of the number of students they budget for and why doesn't the School Board adjust this number at Deliberative session? Mrs. Colbath replied she'd guess because they are used to us doing this. Mr. Fogg said they didn't discuss ghost position this year so didn't consider reducing the number of students this year. Mrs. Colbath said these were not ghost positions. Mr. Miller told Mr. Fogg that the Board should budget for their known positions. If you're down by five students and you don't reduce your budget, you're in affect padding your budget. Mrs. Colbath feels that the fact that we didn't cut students gives them a needed cushion this year.

**Mr. Miller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Romano, to recommend Article 4. Roll call: Miller nay, Romano nay, Conner nay, Colbath nay, O'Conner nay. Fogg nay, and Mankus aye. (Vote 1-6). Motion failed.**

**Mr. Miller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to approve the minutes of January 14<sup>th</sup> . (Vote 7-0)**

Mr. O'Conner will contact Mr. Kasprzyk to see when the Water Precinct wants to meet with the Budget Committee.

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55. (Vote 7-0)**

Respectfully submitted for approval at the nest Budget Committee meeting,

Priscilla Colbath

Secretary Pro Temp