

NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Ashby – Pepperell - Townsend, Massachusetts
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
Monday, February 22, 2016

PRESENT

Chairperson	Randee Rush	Member, At-Large
Vice Chairperson	William Hackler	Member, At-Large
	Anne Adams	Member, Pepperell
	Jonna Clermont	Member, Pepperell
	Brian Edmonds	Member, Pepperell
	Crystal Messamore	Member, Ashby
	Michael Morgan	Member, At-Large
	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend
	Robert Templeton	Member, Townsend

ALSO PRESENT

Joan Landers	Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Haines	Business Manager
NMRSD Staff	
Parent/Community Members	

1. The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. The Superintendent welcomed Pepperell Boy Scout Troop 13 members; Shane Yost, who is working on his citizenship badge and Tom Dufranne, who is working on his communication badge.
3. Superintendent Landers and Business Manager Nancy Haines provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the preliminary FY17 budget totaling \$48,667,507.00, which is a 3.37% increase. This represents \$1,586,244 increase over FY16.

The Chair opened up the floor to questions/comments from the school committee or audience.

The School Committee asked:

- If the Superintendent could give the increase in school counselors.
- Steve Themelis, Chair of Pepperell Select Board, shared that the Town of Pepperell cannot accept the increase of 8.26% it is unsustainable and unacceptable and cannot support a million dollar increase. Mr. Themelis supports the school district, however, he cannot support the increase.
- Melissa Tzanoudakis, Pepperell Board of Selectmen, shared that the board is working with the Town Administrator, Pepperell is doing all they can to clean up the town budget. The money that the school is asking for is not feasible; it would diminish needed services to the rest of the town. They have budgeted 3% for the schools, and that is all that Pepperell can afford.
- Mark Andrews, Pepperell Town Administrator shared that we are working together with the green communities grant; the school is getting 54% of the grant. Mr. Andrews stated that the 8.26% increase is a very big number to get to. Mr. Andrews shared maybe sharing services, Human Resource Director and the Resource Officer. Mr. Andrews looks to continue to work with the Administration.

- Superintendent Landers is presenting the budget at a joint meeting of the school committee, the Board of Selectmen and the finance committee for Ashby, Pepperell, and Townsend on Thursday, February 25, 2016.
- The Superintendent asked what is the amount that Pepperell can afford; Mr. Andrews shared that Pepperell would be able to provide an increase of 4%.
- Nancy Haines reminded the committee that we could not increase the certified budget; we have the ability to decrease the budget not to increase.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Brian Edmonds and seconded by Crystal Messamore to close the public hearing.
Vote: Unanimously passed.

The Public Hearing meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanna Bilotta, Recording Secretary