

## **Amherst School District Ways and Means Committee Meeting**

April 29, 2021, 7:00pm (via Zoom)

### **In Attendance**

From the Ways and Means Committee: Victoria Parisi (Chair), Christine Grayson (Secretary), Kelly Schmidt, Jeff Candito

From the Amherst School Board: None present

From the SAU 39 Administration: Michele Croteau, Amy Facey

### **Summary**

At the April 29<sup>th</sup> Amherst School Board meeting, the board voted to intend to reduce the budget at the Deliberative Session on May 4<sup>th</sup> by \$144,800, all from technology line items. The official vote to reduce can only happen at the Deliberative Session.

This would make the new proposed budget \$30,429,864, which is 4.98% over last year's budget, and .99% over the FY22 default budget.

The Committee voted 3-1 to support the budget, with the intended reductions being made. There are 2 members that did not attend this meeting, and still need to vote. If the anticipated changes are not made, and/or other changes are made at the Deliberative Session, Way and Means will reconvene to discuss the budget again.

Comments on the budget

- The proposed budget being less than 1% over the default is a good number according to some members of the committee.
- The board is really trying to make cuts, but more need to be made in light of the increases (for example, the NH Retirement contributions).
- Would've liked to have seen something besides technology cut.
- Would like to see the 5<sup>th</sup> grade start the 1-1 technology program, but it won't happen this year with cuts to technology.

The Committee may need a new chair next year, as the current chair (Ms. Parisi) is running for a position on the Amherst School Board. Anyone interested should let Ms. Parisi know. Also, the Committee is still in need of members. If anyone knows of someone that is interested in serving, let Ms. Parisi or Nate Jensen (ASD Moderator) know.

### **Deliberative Session Information**

The Amherst School Board Deliberative Session will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup>, in-person at Souhegan High School, and via Zoom. In order to participate in the session, one must attend in-person. There will be a satellite room for those that prefer to be masked, and with others that are masked. The main room (auditorium) will be a mask optional room. It was noted that the other Deliberative Sessions taking place in town (SCSB, MVSBS, and the Town of Amherst) will utilize a satellite room for those that do not wish to be masked, and the main room will require masks.

Ms. Parisi asked Ms. Schmidt to finalize the list of items to discuss with administration within the next month.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Amherst School Board Deliberative Session – May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, in-person at SHS, and via Zoom.

If necessary, a Ways and Means meeting will be scheduled after the ASB Deliberative Session.

Ways and Means Follow-up Meeting with Business Administrator – Ms. Parisi will be scheduling for June

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Grayson