

1. **Call to Order-Roll Call- Pledge of Allegiance:** Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:30pm and upon call of the roll the following board members were present: Anderson, Leach, Kunz, Robinson and Nelson.
2. **Budget Discussion:** Supt. Mosca stated that she has answers for some of the questions that were asked regarding version 1 of the budget. She stated that in regards to PT/OT services it is strictly RGS services. She stated that they handed out a five year breakout of the staff salary increases that were requested. She stated that the only change in version two is the reflection of the salary increase for Kate. She stated that after you received this budget we had some changes which will eventually become version three. She stated that version two is \$121,205 less than the current budget. She stated that the version three changes are a track change, health benefit change for a qualifying event, you asked us to look at computer hardware and software and maintenance which will leave us with a decrease of \$79,324. She stated that we had put in 10% for a health increase and dependent on if we use the effective rate or billing rate it would give us back \$2,159 with the effective rate and it would increase by \$3,773 if we used the billing rate. She stated that we also have pending items for the SAU assessment and the Property and Liability and transportation. D'Agostino stated that in prior years based on the budget being so close there was no additional room for costs if things occur so the previous board had asked for a contingency for a two person health plan in case of a qualifying event . For example in this year we had a qualifying event which was an increase so that is why they put that in place. She stated that she wanted to inform the board so that you may choose to revisit it and decide if you still wish to have it in there. Nelson stated that it is a holding place in case someone has a change. D'Agostino stated yes. Anderson asked how it was handled in previous years. Nelson stated that if it doesn't get spent it comes back. Leach asked what the average qualifying event. D'Agostino stated that it depends on what the change is; someone could be on a buyback and change to a family plan. Leach stated so \$9,000 is on the lower end. Supt. Mosca stated yes. We could have two or three changes. Nelson stated that the biggest jump is from a buyback to something, which is a huge jump. She asked if there is anywhere else in the budget that we build in cushions. D'Agostino stated that this is the one and only placed and it is based on the impact it could have on the budget. Nelson stated that we don't build in any special education contingency because we have the trust fund. Supt. Mosca stated that we don't build in because it can be so fluid, you could have two kids leave and then have kids show up so it is difficult to gauge what to do. Kunz stated that every year we go through this with special education; he doesn't recall a year where it hasn't happened. Supt. Mosca stated that we started the year and we had to let a paraprofessional go because we had a student leave and now we need a paraprofessional for a student who moved in and we just advertised and are going to hire one. Leach asked if we have the health rate. D'Agostino stated that yes we do. She stated that we get two different rates. The billing rate is 10.2% which is the gross amount without the premium holiday. She stated that historically we have received a premium holiday which is a credit toward the gross. She stated that the employees cost is the effective

discounted rate. She stated that when you use the billing rate it inflates your budget because you know we are getting the credit. She stated that we have always used the effective rate but they decided that they would like the board to make that decision. Leach asked if there are any potential negatives to choosing the effective rate. D'Agostino stated that if the rates go up you are always budgeting at the lower rate. Robinson stated that his thoughts are that we are not in the business of saving money; we know the rate so we should use the effective rate because that is the budget. He stated that at the SAU level they decided to go with the billing rate. Nelson stated that if we use the billing rate we will have a decrease. D'Agostino stated that you have a contingency already built in where the SAU does not. Nelson stated that Marie handed out a sheet at the SAU meeting and Somersworth went up a greater percentage so that made them a little gun shy. The board decided by consensus to go with the effective rate. Nelson asked if anyone had any questions on the new budget. Anderson stated that as she was looking to process the changes to the budget she was questions page two of the narrative regarding the impact there would be to the students eliminating the ½ literacy and reducing the gym teacher. Nelson stated that when they asked administration to look at savings, they asked them not to impact the excellent education the kids are getting here. She stated that part of the co-teaching model is allowing this to happen without an impact. Lucas stated that the classroom teachers have been masters of literacy themselves and it is happening more frequently in the class but we still have a part time literacy person here to help staff but they felt that the teachers were good and they didn't need that level of support. Nelson stated that we didn't propose what they should cut; we are listening to the educational experts. Anderson asked if the students will still have gym. Lucas stated yes, they will combine classes and they will have more kids. Anderson stated that on page 4 of the narrative for special education, since we are outsourcing special education if the students are in middle school and high school we are paying for those services. Nelson stated yes, we always have. Anderson asked who monitors those educational services to make sure we are getting what we pay for. Nelson stated that all students getting special education at Marshwood are overseen by our special education director because the state requires that. She stated that Moira is also covering that as we have shifted her responsibilities. Supt. Mosca stated that Pam and Moira meet weekly and Moira is in direct contact with the folks at Marshwood. MacDonald stated that she has been in constant contact with Marshwood since a year ago and they are very much involved. She stated that the 504 is also overseen by herself and Julie Person. D'Agostino stated that once they get the billing it will be reviewed by Moira and Pam before it is paid so there are multiple eyes looking at it. Nelson stated that they have also been told that there will be pop up visits by Moira to see if the services are being delivered. Robinson asked if Mr. Quigley at the SAU does what Moira does. Supt. Mosca stated no he is the out of district liaison and court placed kids. Nelson stated that she is confused by the number of students because she thought we were using October enrollments and she comes up with 70 high school and 46 middle school. D'Agostino stated that they have different pockets with regular education and special education so we have split up the billing so the regular education won't tie out because they don't include the special education. Nelson stated that the budget includes a 2% raise for the custodians and secretary but the town is going with between a 1-1 ½ % and asked if they can have a discussion on that. Leach asked if

they received a raise last year. Nelson stated that they received 2% last year. Robinson stated that for this budget the custodial staff is also going from full time to part time. He stated that he has a problem supporting a reduction when the SAU board is not planning on going less than this for the SAU staff. He stated that they are asking a lot of administration and the school and the exposure is fairly light for the total budget and what it would mean to the employees is important. Anderson stated that we are already changing the make-up of the custodians. She stated that she doesn't want the town to perceive us as one upping them. Robinson stated that if the town is not matching us than we have to stand up for what we are doing. He stated that he has no problem saying were reducing our budget. He stated that he doesn't see this as a huge thing. Kunz stated that we need to revisit this next year. He stated that he thinks we are making a mistake if we go blindly with the town. He stated that we have good people here and he would like to see them paid on what they do and how they do. He stated that we are not talking about a large group and the town needs to do a better job managing their side. He stated that next year he would like to see us look at based on performance and start ponying up. Nelson stated that she is fine with leaving it at 2%. She stated that transportation is up 5% over this year's budget and asked if that is enough where we added buses. D'Agostino stated that historically it has gone up 3% with the current provider. She stated that the budget still included the mid-day kindergarten run so we have that in there as well. Nelson asked why there was such a jump in special education transportation. MacDonald stated that we are paying to transport students from Rollinsford to Marshwood and other students out of district. D'Agostino stated that the in district and out of district are different contracts with different providers. Nelson stated that she asked the board to think about the board stipends and in the spirit of helping out do we want to reduce or eliminate those. Robinson stated that it is hard to get people to be on the board. Kunz stated that it is not a lot of money but it is money. Leach stated that she had a conversation with her husband and it would be nice to do something with the family with the money they get because it does take so much time away from them to do this so she is not interested in giving it up. Anderson stated that she will go with what the group decides. Robinson stated that he will go with the group but he is willing to cut or get rid of it. D'Agostino stated that this board is so fluid so you are making decision for future boards. If you don't want it, it will get returned to the town. Nelson stated that they will stay in the budget. She stated that in version three there is a big jump in equipment and maintenance and she would like to get more detail. She stated that they also have two funds available the building fund which has \$53,000 and the retained fund balance of 2.5% which is \$111,000. D'Agostino stated that fund changes every time the tax rate gets set so it is no longer \$111,000 it is \$38,000. Nelson stated that we should have chosen to use it. Supt. Mosca stated that you can't just use it, it has to be used for an emergency and you have to apply for it and get permission to use that money. Nelson asked if that is true for the building fund. D'Agostino stated no but you can only use it through a warrant article. Nelson stated that with all the changes we are showing less than \$100,000 savings. Robinson stated that he would like to at our next workshop have a discussion on the warrant articles to do the maintenance projects. He would also like to have a conversation on using savings this year to rewire the boiler room in the main building. Nelson stated that they will plan to have the discussion on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. She stated that over

the next couple of weeks the department of homeland security is doing an assessment in order to get matching funds for things like a generator and security cameras. She stated that it moves very quickly on that. She stated that we need to look at the current budget because we have approximately \$202,000 unencumbered at this point. D'Agostino stated that will change because we are hiring a paraprofessional. Kunz asked if we have received quotes for the maintenance items. Dick Fortier stated that he received budgetary quotes. Supt. Mosca stated that at the next meeting they will target the warrant articles and finalize the budget. Nelson stated that it is important to think about how we can increase revenue and think about a tuition formula for this school and market this school.

3. **Adjournment:** The workshop closed at 6:25pm.

Katie Krauss  
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval