

1. **Call to Order-Roll Call- Pledge of Allegiance:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm. The following members were present: Ken Bolduc, Don Austin, Dana Rivers, Karen Hiller, Joanne Pepin, Kelly Brennan, Matt Hanlon, and Sean Collins. Absent: Bob Gibson
2. **Budget Discussion:** Supt. Mosca stated that she is going to walk the board through the next phase but first she will review what has been presented thus far.

**Current FY 15/16 Budget:** \$26,102,271  
**Proposed FY 16/17 Budget:** \$26,771,399  
**Proposed Increase:** \$669,128  
**Loss of Revenue:** \$398,451  
**Total Budget Increase:** \$1,067,579  
**Projected Tax Cap Increase:** \$254,000  
**Budget Savings:** \$423,000  
**Budget Shortfall:** \$390,579

She stated that we have been able to cover our expenses the shortfall is due to the decrease in revenue. She stated that we had a loss of adequacy money and Rollinsford tuition. She stated that the administration and I met to look at places to make cuts. She stated that they are proposing the following reductions:

- **2 Paraprofessionals** \$ **80,000**
- **HS Asbestos Removal & Floor Replacement** \$ **55,000**
- **1 Custodian** \$ **60,000**
- **NWEA Testing** \$ **20,000**
- **Restructuring Bus Routes** \$ **40,000**
- **1 SPED Teacher** \$ **80,000**
- **Contingency & Maintenance** \$ **55,000**

She stated that last year everyone was affected but custodial was the only place that didn't get cut so that was the recommendation that we felt that we could live with. She stated that she wants to remind everyone again that this is due to the revenue shortfall not that we couldn't cover our expenses.

3. **Board Questions:** Brennan stated that she is seeing four faces with the custodian, sped teacher, and two paras and that hurts. She stated that the NWEA testing based on the results she feels that is a great place to save money. She asked what the restructuring of the bus routes looks like and asked how they save that. Supt. Mosca stated that we looked at the runs and found ways to do some consolidation around that. She stated that she will have more information at the next meeting; it doesn't reduce the number of buses. Joanne Pepin asked how reducing the special education teacher will impact the case load for the other teachers. Supt. Mosca stated that they have talked a lot about cooperative services and there is a person in the special education position will be moving to a different position and we believe that we can absorb the numbers and not make them that much greater. She stated that we will have a person doing

the transition from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade and will work with both middle and high school. She stated that they looked at how they better utilize our resources and look within the building for cooperative services. Hanlon stated that he would like to hear more on the restructuring of bus routes because he is worried about how the change will affect kindergartners. He also asked if they would be getting a full budget with the line items. Supt. Mosca stated that we have not been giving the whole budget because the process is different now with the tax cap. We know we can't increase more than the \$254,000 so the parameters have changed. She stated that in regards to the buses we are not changing the number of buses or changing the time of the buses. She stated that we have other things we are doing at the school that will eliminate the \$40,000. Hiller stated that the sped person is not a face were losing it is a position that will not be there but the person will be, is that the same with the custodian and the paras. Supt. Mosca stated that the custodian is retiring so we won't be replacing them. She stated that the paras we also won't be replacing with one retiring and one moving. Hiller stated so nobody is losing their job. Supt. Mosca stated that two of them are retiring and what we know now with the paras she feels certain that nobody will lose their job. Bolduc stated that the NWEA costs \$20,000 and asked if this is required by the state or the feds. Supt. Mosca stated that this is testing that we do but it is not required by the state or the feds, we use it to benchmark students in the fall, winter and spring to determine the tiered approach to provide support for kids but we will use something else. Bolduc asked if this was done by an outside firm. Supt. Mosca stated that we use an outside company and it is computer based. Bolduc stated that she said something about getting extra money from title I. Supt. Mosca stated that Title I is based on free and reduced lunch population so it is important for families to fill out the paperwork if they qualify because it not only makes sure that children are fed but it also helps with Title I money and at other times we also get carryover funds. Bolduc stated that this is not a new formula our numbers have just changed and you said that we could tie that in to full day kindergarten. Supt. Mosca stated that if you can hold on that we will have a discussion regarding that in two meetings. Bolduc stated that he is disappointed that there is no CIP included because that will catch up to us. Austin stated that for the four positions it is important to distinguish between people versus positions. He stated that a lot of creativity has been done to hold on to people. He stated that we have reduced many positions in the last 5-6 years and every time you do there is something that you used to do that you can't do anymore. He stated that just because you are not filling jobs because people are retiring they are still positions. He stated that we could have students move in that requires paras and we have a lot fewer employees than we had several years ago. He stated that we are not looking to hand out pink slips we are doing whatever we need to do to maintain personnel. Supt. Mosca stated that our most important resource is our people. Hanlon stated that we have lost sight of the impact because we have been able to be creative but he can remember a budget season where we cut positions with people attached to them and we had a line out the door where people were here fighting for the person and he asked if we can get a list of how many positions we have lost since 2010. Supt. Mosca stated that she is not sure that it is a true picture and she is not sure it will give you what you are looking for because we have fluctuation all the time. She stated that last year we had 6 positions that were actual people that we did not fill. She stated that it would be

hard to reflect that and hard to come up with due to those fluctuations. Marty Pepin stated that his concern is when do the dollar signs create problems with the education of the students and how do we judge that and figure that out. Supt. Mosca stated are we getting close we may be but if you look at what we did here the core of what happens educationally and the support we need around the core. Last year some cuts were around the core. Are we still managing, yes people are taking on more. She stated that we are about kids and if it means we stretch ourselves a little further we do but we are getting closer to that core. She stated that we have so many fluctuations, the effects of Rollinsford is a two to four year cycle. She stated that we try to put our best foot forward every day and we will provide students with what they need but we are getting close to the tipping point. Bolduc stated that he hates to say we do the best with what we have because he doesn't think that is good enough. He stated that the accreditation team only had two concerns and they both had to do with funding, local funding and the reduction of tuition in Rollinsford and we received warnings due to funding not on what we are doing in the school. Supt. Mosca stated that we are providing students with the best possible education and were doing everything we can and also go above and beyond that. She stated that it is about a revenue shortfall that we can't control, we can be creative on the expenditures side but we can't control revenue.

4. **Adjournment:** Austin closed the workshop at 7:00pm.

Katie Krauss

Pending Board Approval

Board Secretary