

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: Nelson, Anderson, Leach and Kunz. Absent: Robinson
2. **Budget Discussion:** Nelson stated that the purpose of the meeting is to look over version two of the budget. She stated that she would like to remind everyone our mission statement that The Rollinsford School Board in collaboration with school and town will continue to provide for quality education while pursuing operating cost reductions at Rollinsford Grade School. She stated that she believes that the administration and the educational experts have done a good job last year and this year looking for savings and they have assured us that the educational excellence hasn't been impacted. She stated that our job as a board is to hold up our end of the deal. D'Agostino stated that the differences between version one and version two are some track changes for staff as they weren't accounted for in the first version because staff has a deadline of November 1st. She stated that there also changes for the para staffing due to changes in need, in version one there was a reduction of two paraprofessionals and in version two there is a reduction of one. She stated that we had to add a ½ time para this year and increase hours of a current staff person so that equates to one whole person. Supt. Mosca stated that a number of students have moved in who need services and we are at the max of what we can provide and there are also a number of kids in the pipeline of the referral process so we will need extra help. D'Agostino stated that also changed in version two is the health insurance rate increase. In version one we had estimated 7% based on the effective rate which includes the premium holiday and we received the actual rates and it is now 3%. She stated that also included in version two is the board's directive to include the after school transportation. She stated that we also hired new clerical staff and that includes a 2% increase as well as the position changed from 260 days to 210 days. She stated that there have been some changes since version two so we will have a version three. Nelson stated that she wanted to make people aware that the marshwood tuition increase 3.4% which is twice what it was for this year. She stated that Somersworth tuition increased 3% by contract. She stated that the special education increase is similar. Somersworth increased 3% by contract and Marshwood for the a la carte services is over a 4% increase. Leach stated that she noticed in the budget under Marshwood there is information for salaries and benefits and asked if that was for the liaison. Nelson stated yes. Supt. Mosca stated that we also broke it out for guidance as well. Nelson stated that on page three of six it lists the increase/decrease with the elimination of one paraprofessional and one part time title one tutor, are we adding that? D'Agostino stated yes. Nelson stated that on page five under maintenance, what is an auto scrubber. Dick Fortier stated that it is a machine to wash the floor. Supt. Mosca stated that we have been looking at the main building bathrooms and the final numbers came in more than we thought at \$27,500. Nelson asked if that is all the bathrooms. Fortier stated no just the boys and girls bathroom which is a complete renovation with urinals in the boy's bathroom and all the pipes and fixtures. Supt. Mosca stated that we will be reducing the maintenance repair line by \$10,000 and will add

a warrant article for the \$27,500. She stated that we also received a quote for the storage shed in the amount of \$32,000. Anderson asked if you just had someone give you a quote or did you go out to bid. Fortier stated that he got three different quotes. Anderson asked the size of the shed. Fortier stated 30 x 30. D'Agostino stated that she will revise the warrant article sheet on version three. Fortier stated that they will be getting things out of the attic into the shed and they will get rid of two sheds and the other two will be repaired. Leach asked the cost of the repairs. Fortier stated that they are doing it in house so it will be just for materials. Anderson asked if they store equipment in the attic. Fortier stated that there are books and other things up there and we are going to purge some things this year. Nelson stated that we will have a discussion on whether or not this can wait. Nelson asked if they needed to repair the other two because that is a big shed. Nelson stated that under maintenance repairs it lists east side annex window, front steps and door flashing (N/S) and those things are called out in the historical assessment that has been done. We need to double check with the assessment as they will have information on if we put money into them now can it be used as our match. Nelson stated that on page six of nine there is a jump in health premiums. D'Agostino stated that there was a change in staff. Nelson asked if they are on the consumer driven plan. Supt. Mosca stated no, it has to be all or nothing. Nelson stated that in regular transportation that is not the total for the kindergarten savings. D'Agostino stated that she took the total and prorated it. Nelson stated that she would like it to reflect kindergarten savings in RGS only as it is just a savings for Rollinsford grade school. She stated that we also don't have any contingency built in for more students coming in to Marshwood middle and high school, we are budgeting based on current students only. Leach asked if it has stabilized. Supt. Mosca stated that we have had a few move ins so next month it will show as an increase. She stated that they try to wait until we have proof of residence until we add it. D'Agostino stated that it is up to the board if you want to add a contingency. Anderson stated that she thinks that we have to add some. She stated that on page three it shows co-curricular and asked if intramural sports have been eliminated because she hasn't seen any starting. Supt. Mosca stated that she will check with Kate. Kunz asked why we decreased equipment maintenance repairs by \$1,000. Fortier stated that we are starting to replace things versus repairing and with preventative maintenance every year it doesn't cost as much to repair. Kunz stated that it is not a lot of money but if you come across something that needs to be fixed you need to have funds available to you. Fortier state that he understands what he is saying just this week we had a slide break and that is something that was not budgeted for but he is trying to be frugal with your money. Nelson stated that she has been attending the budget committee meetings and she is very well versed on how the tax rates are set. She stated that the budget we voted on in March is the tax bill we just saw. She stated that she didn't know that that select board works with the DRA to set the full tax rate. She stated that the school portion of the tax rate is five times what the town's tax rate so she understands why people talk about the school. She stated that the select board has not given full time employees except for teachers in the town to get dental insurance. She stated that it is only \$4,000 and they haven't felt that they can pay for it. She stated that we need to be careful going forward. She stated that they asked the administration and the educators to step up and save money and we have worked hard to get it where it needs to be. She stated that we have to

be careful not to spend it elsewhere. She stated that she would like to work more with the town and have meetings with the select board and possibly have one joint meeting. She stated that Marie sent out the tax rate information and it was interesting to see. She stated that on page four the town voted to take 2.5% of the budget and put it into an unassigned general fund so there is \$113,000 sitting in that fund and it says that it is a retained budget and it is not cumulative and it is to be used for emergencies or reduce the tax rate which she found interesting. She stated that the town took their fund balance and reduced the tax rate so it will be \$27 and not \$28. Leach stated that is the fund where we have to have nothing left in the budget and then ask to use it. Supt. Mosca stated that we gave you the attorney write up regarding that. She stated that say it was April and we were close to the end of the budget and we have expended most of the budget and we had \$100,000 left and the roof falls apart and we have to do something that would be an opportunity to use that. She stated that we would have to have a special meeting to use those funds. Leach stated that anything encumbered counts toward appropriations. Supt. Mosca stated that would be our contractual obligations. D'Agostino stated that the reason why we are able to take it is because we had it, if we didn't have it we couldn't do it. She stated that we had \$194,000 left at the end of the year, the town put \$25,000 into each of the trust funds which brought it down to \$144,000 and the district took \$113,000 and the balance of the \$30,000 goes back to the town. Nelson asked how it works to use it to offset taxes. Supt. Mosca stated that they will have to get that answer. She stated that she will have Marie check with the DRA. Leach stated that it is important for the town to know how much money went back from the school. Supt. Mosca stated that the good news is that we have money in that fund in case of an emergency but we don't have flexibility in it. D'Agostino stated that if we didn't have the money and we had an emergency we would have to have an emergency meeting to raise taxes to get the money that is the reason why it was done for the schools. Anderson asked if it can be used for kids who move in and go to Marshwood. Nelson stated that we have to expend all funds first. D'Agostino stated that the changes for version three will be the SAU assessment which is a \$9,820 increase, today we received the primex rate increase which is 3.4% for property and liability and 4.1% for workers compensation, the \$10,000 decrease in maintenance and Rollinsford is receiving \$145,709 additional in adequacy revenue. Supt. Mosca stated that the state provides money for students to help offset the per pupil cost. The state sets a rate of \$3600 per pupil and if a student is not on reading level you get more money, if they are on free and reduced lunch you get more money and if they are ELL or special education you get more money. She stated that because there was an increase in enrollment from two years ago that is what got us the extra money. D'Agostino stated that the net change for version three is a decrease of \$95,000. Nelson stated that is fantastic. She stated that in regards to the contingency for students she was thinking between 3-5 students. Leach stated that her immediate thought was 5. Nelson stated that we could do 4. Anderson asked how many we have already seen. Supt. Mosca stated that we had some leave and some come so it has been flat. Leach stated that is it flat student wise or flat cost wise. Supt. Mosca stated student wise. Leach asked how they are cost wise. Supt. Mosca stated that she thinks that we are ok. Nelson stated that 3 students would be the least she would do. D'Agostino stated that she will adjust the enrollment based on December 1st and will add three

contingency. Nelson stated that she would like a separate line for contingency. She stated that she asked Marie to see the late bus as its own line in the budget. She stated that the ridership is six students a day and we are no longer being subsidized so it costs us \$23 to get one student to their home and that is a lot of money and we need to think about it. Anderson asked if there is any way to go back to the discounted rate. Supt. Mosca stated no. Nelson stated that for next year she would suggest to take it out and give parents plenty of warning and then make a warrant article and let the town decide. Kunz stated that he really thought we would see an increase in ridership. He stated that the town needs to decide, it is a good idea to put it as a warrant article. He stated that they need to think about what is going to be the deciding factor and what number will work. Nelson stated that it has to be 35 for me to make it work. She stated that it is a hard decision. She stated that she doesn't want to take the money RGS has saved to get six kids to their door. Those six kids will be impacted and I understand that, it is a tough one. Kunz stated that we have to send that warning well before next year starts on what we are looking at because parents didn't have a lot of time to prepare. He stated that we were sold a bill of good with the Marshwood transportation. Supt. Mosca stated that she check on that and it was not happening, there is no bus route that is more than an hour and there was no overcrowding and students being turned away. Nelson stated that she would recommend taking it out and making it a warrant article.

3. **Next Meeting:** The next budget meeting was scheduled for December 1st at 5:30pm.
4. **Adjournment:** The workshop closed at 6:30pm.

Katie Krauss
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval