

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, Cavanaugh, Kunz, Leach and Anderson.
2. **Budget Discussion:** Nelson stated that she met with Kate and Marie to go over the capital improvements, which will get to by the end of the meeting. She stated that we are here to talk about next year's budget. She stated that we don't have the tuition rates yet. D'Agostino stated that we will have them by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Nelson stated that I assume that they will go up. She stated that we also don't know the health cost increases. D'Agostino stated that she projected an 8% increase; she is hoping that it is lower but we should know by the second week of November. Nelson asked if there are any other costs that might go up that are contracted items. D'Agostino stated transportation. Nelson stated that it is going up by \$5,000. She asked if anyone had anything that they wanted to look at specifically. Leach stated CIP stuff this year versus last year. Kunz stated that he would like to concentrate on the technology piece; there are things that we may want to consider that we have put off. Nelson stated that Kate said she has heard the board say tell us what we really need and she believes that is what we are doing this year. Lucas stated that the board objective has been to find places to reduce to put money into the building and for a number of years that has been reducing personnel. She stated that this year she is proposing not to add any money except for a couple of lines. She stated that items such as supplies and print media will stay flat and she will continue to put money into maintenance and technology. She stated that in computer hardware they are proposing an increase of \$14,100. She stated that we are finding that the older students need to do more word processing so we will use Ipads in the annex with the younger kids and chromebooks for older kids. She stated that it will also allow them to share and collaborate. Kunz asked if there were any additional costs for software. Lucas stated that we are not asking for an increase this year. She stated that under contracted services there is an increase of \$5,000. She stated that Tom Lebel is our IT person and he has been here long before I joined RGS and he donates a lot of time. She stated that he should be paid for his work and the more technology we have the more hours we need him. Nelson stated that this did not come from Tom it came from you in order for him to be recognized for his time. Lucas stated that he is working far more hours and he also worked all summer. She stated that the increase in the workload is substantial. Kunz stated that he is wondering if that is enough. Lucas stated that she thinks that it is fair compensation for the workload. She stated that he has a billable rate and we looked at the number of hours. Kunz stated that we would pay more elsewhere. Lucas stated that we did a comparison with Back Bay and it was pretty close. She stated that he is always available and we are really fortunate that he is intimately involved. Nelson stated that he is invaluable and to get him compensated more fairly is not unreasonable. Kunz stated that he hates it when we are cheap when it comes to people who are good to us and for things in the long run we would pay so much for. Cavanaugh asked why there is money for both laptops and chromebooks. Lucas stated that the laptops are for the adults, teachers need laptops and this is part of the computer

replacement. She stated that under custodial, we are proposing a 2% raise for our two custodians. Nelson stated that we are following the town and they have consistently been around 2%, which is not unreasonable. Lucas stated that they are also proposing an additional part time person during the school year. Thursday nights are our biggest nights here and we are looking for someone for that night. She stated that we are also proposing one person for 20 hours a week for the five weeks in the summer. She stated that we need some support to help with the work over the summer as we don't have time to get to some projects but we could have if we had another person. She stated that our custodians also don't take vacations during the summer and now Dick is off for two weeks so having another person would allow them to take time in the summer and alleviate the vacations during the school year. Anderson stated that we talked about sharing resources with the town so maybe we could help the town meet their needs as well. Nelson stated that the town only has a part time custodian for the town hall so she doesn't think that there is anything we can take on for the town or the town can take over for us but it is worth the conversation. Lucas stated that under the maintenance repairs line we are trying to make some improvements. She stated that in Dick's first year, we did all LED lights and now they all need to be replaced. She stated that the phone/bell system that we have they don't make any more or any replacement parts so Dick has been talking to a company to get a full replacement with an automated system. She stated that they are losing heat in the annex and need to finish the pipe installation. We would like to continue our painting rotation. There is also money for exterior upgrades to the bricks and piping. She stated that they want to do some work on security with the doors and add the auto lock in the kindergarten area to have a secure entrance and exit. D'Agostino stated that there is a fee for servicing these things so there would be a cost savings to not have to do that. Nelson stated that it is not just external telephone calls it is also internal calls that aren't working and that is a safety measure. Leach asked where they are sealcoating. Lucas stated that all the pavement will be seal coated. She stated that it preserves it so they don't have to look at repaving it any time soon. Leach asked if they recommend doing it every year. Lucas stated no every five to six years. She stated that under miscellaneous they are no longer doing NWEA testing so there is a cost savings of \$4,400. She stated that under library print media there is an increase of \$1,500. She stated that there is an apple voucher program in effect, there is a cost per app on each device, and we have a number of apps on all devices so we need to put money in. Nelson stated that this is a change in the way that apple is doing business. Lucas stated that under clerical, Caroline is phenomenal at her job, is pleasant and kind, and know what the staff needs and we did not suggest a raise last year because she had just started but she has earned her raise tenfold. She stated that there is a decrease in the tuition reimbursement line based on the number of staff who are taking classes, there are less people taking classes now. Nelson stated that do we have any direction for Marie to put these in. D'Agostino stated that in the current budget we have \$50,000 in for the trust funds so the budget will decrease by that and also the two warrant articles that passed that were put into the maintenance line will also decrease your budget. Nelson stated that it does get confusing. Nelson stated that what gets voted on in March is the operating budget and the warrant articles get added together. Nelson stated that she asked Marie to pull out the warrant articles on the current budget so we could see them. Leach asked if they create a sheet

for comparison of line-by-line from one year to the next. D'Agostino stated that when you get the budget in the packet it is a two-year actual, the current budget, and the proposed budget. Anderson asked if PT/OT services change from year to year. D'Agostino stated that it is based on actual students and whatever percentage increase for the service. Anderson asked if it was the same for legal and audit. D'Agostino stated that legal they look at the previous years. She stated that some years you don't spend it and other years you do so it is difficult to budget for. Nelson stated that we will be re-negotiating with Marshwood to extend the contract so it will be good to make sure we have enough in there. D'Agostino stated that last year we budgeted \$14,000 and we spent \$9,000 so we still had \$5,000 unspent so we kept it flat this year but it is up to the board if you want to increase or decrease it. Nelson stated that the second thing we wanted to talk about is the CIP plan. She stated that we knocked off some stuff and designated money from last year with the savings of a teacher's salary that we didn't replace. She stated that most of the items on the list are based on the IBEA study and what Dick has identified. Lucas stated yes, what Dick feels is the most pressing, and we also had a homeland security analysis as well. Nelson stated that we have all seen these and should be familiar to anyone who has read the IBEA study. She stated that the prices are out of date but this gives us an idea. She stated that one of the top things that is talked about is the cupola and the main building and roof. She stated that we are on the national historic registry and should we have the time and energy we could try to raise matching funds and receive grants. She stated that we never lose our historic designation but it doesn't mean that we have to do it that way. Leach stated that if we use matching funds we would have to do it within the historical guidelines. Nelson stated yes which is why the price goes up so much. Kunz stated that if the town is willing to pay \$100,000 to repair the eyesore on Main Street then they should be able to pony up the money for a building on the historical registry. He stated that if we don't get it done it will probably cost more. Nelson stated that there is no guarantee that we will get any matching funds, they have to be available and even if we start the process now it could be two year. She stated that the cupola is an eye sore. Leach stated that we can apply for the grant and then we can say no thank you if we find out more information on the lien on the building. Nelson stated that she can find the answers to those questions, their website is very good. Kunz stated that it is really falling apart and it needs to be fixed. Dr. Brown asked if it has been settled to go the historic route or fixing it outright. Leach stated that they are looking for answers on the restrictions and the lien on the building first. Nelson stated that the board would have to answer those questions. Anderson asked if there is a difference in the estimate. Nelson stated that they are over twice as much to do it historically. Lucas stated that the quote for \$50,000 is what we got and the \$110,000 is an estimate given by the historical group. She stated that it is also timely, they are already three years in the process and we are not making headway so are we looking out five or six more years to have it happen. Dr. Brown stated that regardless of what you do to the cupola the building stays on the registry. Nelson stated yes as long as it remains a school. Leach stated that we need to get an updated quote. Nelson stated that it is worth getting the quote and to look at their website for answers. Anderson asked if there are folks in town who have a strong feeling to preserve it historically. Nelson stated that all she has heard is dear god fix the cupola. Cavanaugh stated that she feels like it is a frivolous thing to have the town pay

for. Anderson asked what the alternative is, remove it. Cavanaugh stated what if we take it off when we do the roof. Nelson stated that the question is do we remain historic if we take it off. Kunz stated that it adds character and speaks to the time the building was built. He stated that it is collapsing on itself and is being held up with chicken wire and that is pathetic. Nelson stated that she will see what they can find out before next meeting.

**14. Adjournment:** The budget workshop closed at 6:25pm.

Katie Krauss  
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval