

- Budget Discussion:** Nelson stated that we were going to get a first look at the budget for the 2019-2020 school year. Krauss stated that they needed to concentrate on the fact that this was a “preliminary” budget. Gadomski stated that they had placed a bunch of “markers” in the budget and we know that we need to clean those up. He stated that the final number is not a real number at this point. Krauss stated that there are three different reports and it is not a full packet like you usually get but once we finalize it you will get a full packet. She stated that there is one complete total budget, one for elementary and one for middle school and high school. She stated that there will be changes and this is the first real look at the actual budget. Nelson stated that since this is the first look perhaps the Board should take a few minutes to look it over unless you want to give us the notes. Krauss stated that there are things that are not included in this. She stated that they have been left flat and these include the SAU Assessment, because that budget has not been done yet; Marshwood Tuition, because they have until November 1st to give us figures; and we are waiting for some figures from Hartford because we changed the process this year. She stated that what is different is that they have asked for items to be broken out in more detail than before so in supplies you may see 5 or 6 lines such as math supplies, science supplies, health supplies. She stated that Hartford has been meeting with his staff to really break things out so it is taking a bit longer to get figures because it is different than what we have been doing in the past. She stated that they are still waiting for some estimates on maintenance items from Fortier. She stated that you will not see any revenue sheets in this budget because we need to wait until November for the State to give us those. She stated that an 8% increase in health has been added in as well as 3% for dental and a 3% increase for non-union staff. Gadomski stated that they tried to put some “guesstimate markers” in the budget to bring the number a bit closer to where we’ll end up. He stated that they had met with Hartford a number of times and discussed adding more detail to the budget. He stated if there were lines that you still question as to the detail please let us know. He stated that what they are looking for this evening is any reactions to the budget set up, any questions that you may have and then by the time we get to the next meeting we should have a much, much tighter budget. Krauss stated that she had gone through and put some notes on the lines that have been increased or decreased. She stated that some of the maintenance things that Hartford had given her detail on she had gone through and put in notes. She stated that the retirement rates changed for next year and the change was not bad. She stated that employees went from 11.38% this year to 11.17% next year, an actual decrease. She stated that teachers went from 17.36% to 17.8% next year. Nelson stated that there were no big jumps like we have seen in the past. Krauss stated that there has always been a general supply line but now it has been broken out so there is one for Reading, one for Art, one for Music etc. She stated that some of these lines may not have a dollar amount in them as we are still working on those figures but at least the account numbers are there. She stated that it is still the 1100-610 line but the end number signifies the subject break-out. Gadomski stated that they have tried to do the same with equipment. He stated that in the past there was one catchall for equipment. He stated that it was difficult to

find the history of a piece of equipment and then what was budgeted for it. He stated that you will now see if a piece of equipment has a value of more than \$100 and more than a lifespan of 3 years it will be under equipment. He stated that if it is equipment for a certain area as in Art or Music it will be listed in the appropriate area. Krauss stated that there use to be one line for computer technology and now we have one for new equipment and one for replacement equipment. She stated that it is a bit of a different breakout. Hartford stated that a lot of the building base supplies are not in the budget yet. He stated that this is because it is the first time that the teachers have had a huge part in this process. He stated that he has put the responsibility on them because he is not going to assume what they need. He stated that they need to be able to tell me what they need. He stated that if they then need to cut back, he will be able to go back to the individual teachers to see what are the priorities. He stated that with maintenance they are still waiting on a few numbers. He stated that Fortier did a good job of prioritizing our needs to maintain the building and be able to operate safely but he is still waiting for several quotes from folks. Gadomski stated that once all the numbers are in, Krauss, Hartford and himself would sit down and go line by line through the budget to tidy it up. Nelson asked if they would have it ahead of time to look at. Gadomski stated that they would. Nelson stated that when she looks at audit services she notices that this figure has not been increased even though they know they have had to pay more in the past years. Krauss stated that she would look at that. Gadomski stated that as you look through this preliminary budget and see lines that are over budgeted or under budgeted send us an email. He stated that they want to try to get these numbers as close as they can to actual. He stated that they have seen lines annually that are either under budgeted or over budgeted and we are trying to clean these up. Krauss stated that she wants to reach out to Fortier because she needs to check with him on some estimates. Nelson stated that it is difficult because they are looking forward a full year. Gadomski stated that they are hoping when they get everything in the correct lines year after year they can do a 3 year running average of things like oil and electricity. Kunz asked if Fortier is putting together a list of things that need to be repaired or replaced. Krauss stated that on Page 9 of this packet are the things that he budgeted for. She stated that she knows there are more that will be coming. She stated that the budget amounts may change but perhaps the notes will not. She stated that they are listed under "Grounds Maintenance" or "Maintenance Repairs". Nelson stated that a lot of this is to address ongoing issues. Kunz stated that at Open House he had noticed the blinds in the Art Room. He stated that the blinds are clearly not functional and did not know if there was a running list of things that needed to be addressed like that. He stated that he is also curious how the windows get opened in that room. Lori Hess stated that you have to stand on a chair. Nelson stated that they are heavy. Kunz stated that if somebody gets hurt because they have to climb up onto something to get it opened it doesn't make much sense. Gadomski stated that if there is anything like this email him to let him know. He stated that they could get quotes on this and then make some decisions. Kunz stated that he does not know how things get prioritized. Gadomski stated that he thinks we get an estimate and keep a list of the cost and then we put it into the budget, or do a separate warrant article or spend it from surplus at the end of the year. Nelson stated that the windows in the original building have been a part of every engineering study we have done and the consensus is they need to be

replaced. She stated that they do not work, or they work with a great deal of difficulty. Kunz stated that he wanted to know if people, as they walk around the building, are the issues that are noticed added to a list so that when we have funds we can address them. Gadomski stated that keeping a list makes sense because then you can be pro-active instead of being reactive when something breaks. Hartford stated that he thought that Fortier did a great job of getting this information together. Nelson stated that we could all walk around and pick out something so whenever anyone sees something we need to email it to the SAU. She stated that Hartford should ask staff about issues in their classrooms that may be difficult to work around and add to the list. Hartford stated that an issue like the shades could come out of this year's budget. Leach stated that it is almost like they need to have \$1,000.00 in a miscellaneous fund for these issues. Gadomski stated that there is maintenance money in the budget. Nelson stated that she did not see a reason why they cannot combine the Middle and High School budgets instead of two different breakouts for it. Krauss stated that this is how it was always given to the Board in the past. Leach stated as far as transportation and other costs they are all the same. She stated that she did not know if there was any reason they would need it broken out between the two schools. Krauss stated that what you want is to keep RGS separate. Leach stated that now that we have fully transitioned Middle and High School can be on one report. Krauss stated that it is a click of the button to add the Middle School report to the High School report. Gadomski stated that the important thing to explain to the public is that if you are reducing your overall budget you are reducing from Rollinsford Grade School. He stated that at the Elementary School level you have more control of your budget. Nelson stated that we need to make sure that we are "right-sizing" our staff. She stated that she wants the Principal and Superintendent to realize that this should be ongoing. Gadomski stated that this needs to be an annual discussion. He stated that you need to look at class size, because at times you will have big classes going through and at times smaller classes. Nelson stated that the 3% put in as a place holder for the non-union staff increase needs to be adjusted as we have historically done what the town has done which is 2%. Gadomski stated that if you want the "markers" different just let them know. Krauss stated that hopefully by the November meeting they should have the health insurance rates from SchoolCare.

Melinda Sullivan
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval