

## **SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

### **February 28, 2008**

On February 28, 2008, the Board of Selectmen held a meeting at 6:30 PM at the IMC at Apponequet Regional High School in Lakeville. The purpose of the meeting was to attend the F/L Regional School Committee meeting. The meeting was called to order by Chair Yeatts at 6:40 PM. Selectmen present were: Selectman Yeatts and Selectman Maksy. Also present were: Rita Garbitt, Town Administrator and Tracie Craig, Executive Assistant.

Freetown Local School Committee members present were: Sandra Souza, Robert Clark, Jean Tierney, and Alex Magalhaes. F/L Regional School Committee members present were: Robert Clark, David Brown, Robert Canessa, Lorraine Carboni, Jean Fox, and Charlene Shea. Lakeville School Committee members present were: David Goodfellow, Lorraine Carboni, Carolyn Gomes, David McQueeney and Charlene Shea. Lakeville Finance Committee members present were: Melissa Hopkins, Michael Petruzzo Gary Mansfield and James Hanlon. Also present was Superintendent of Schools Stephen Furtado and Louis Rodrigues, Business Manager.

### **Presentation on School Budgets**

Dr. Furtado said the meeting was to discuss the current status of the budget. He presented a PowerPoint presentation on the budget. He said the recommendations are not cast in stone. This is not an enjoyable time for anyone, perhaps we will have a better picture of where the Region may be after tonight. We don't know what the final numbers will be from the Governor or the Legislature or even from the Towns. Given the current state of revenue, we had to get to a number that no one is enjoying. Dr. Furtado did a walk through the budget in general and reviewed what has happened the past two (2) years with the Towns.

In the first budget, the original number was \$24,159,721. This number has been bouncing, with staff insurance, workers compensation, etc., but it is the best number we have to date. The Region is based upon enrollment of the two (2) Towns. Freetown has 860 students, Lakeville has 1,108 for a total of 1,968. These figures are based on the October 1<sup>st</sup> enrollment of the previous year. Freetown has 43.70% of the students, Lakeville has 56.30%. Based on local mandated revenues, the minimum local contributions are: Freetown - \$4,865,222, Lakeville - \$5,240,262 for a total of \$10,105,484. Chapter 70 State Aid received, less school choice is \$3,305,875.83 for Freetown and \$4,259,198.17 for Lakeville for a total of \$7,565,074.00. There are no additional contributions at this time. Total net school spending is \$8,171,097.83 for Freetown, \$9,499,46.17 for Lakeville for a total of \$17,670,558. Other revenue available is: transportation, which is at 83% reimbursement, \$863,402 total (\$486,102.35 Lakeville, \$377,299.65 Freetown. The Region received \$2,032,063 from the MSBA for the High School and Middle School building projects. Other local revenues include: gate receipts, miscellaneous revenue, interest earned, tuition, Medicaid reimbursements, facilities use, community recreation, revenue other sources, debt reduction designated fund, High School and Middle School bond premiums, E&D revenue (\$500,000) for a total of \$3,739,971.07. After considering all funding sources, the total available is \$22,919,411. There is a difference of \$1,240,310. We have only identified \$1,019,841 in cuts. There is an additional \$220,469 in cuts needed. He spoke to the

administrators again today. There are going to be a lot of different opinions on how we reduce our budget.

Dr. Furtado went on to explain in previous years, the Region has been very fortunate that both Towns have always given more money than was required. In 2001, \$1,379,099, 2002 \$1,603,916, 2003 \$1,554,545, 2004 \$1,225,602, 2005 \$835,899.36, 2006 \$1,131,102, 2007 \$939,182, and \$56,395 for 2008. However, for 2009, there are no additional contributions 2009 from either Town that have been identified. Dr. Furtado then said that he has asked each Principal to speak to their particular budgets.

Ms. Beaubien, Principal of the George R. Austin Middle School (GRAIS), said that she has requested a \$205,949 increase in her budget. She is being asked to make \$65,713 in cuts. One position cut was a Title 1 reading position. This was grant funded and was cut. 48 students who receive Title 1 support will not be supported next year. Also cut was a special education teacher. Next year, IEP students in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade will increase 17 students, which is a caseload. That will greatly affect our inclusion classes.

Mr. Patota, Principal of the Freetown/Lakeville Middle School (FLMS) said that curriculum leaders were cut from his budget. He also cut extra curricular activities and the basketball team. His cuts totaled \$250,059. He did not want to cut staff. He lost a ½ music position, but is not a person, since the current person is retiring. We won't be losing staff, but we are losing a custodian. There are 300 sixth graders moving up. Classroom sizes will be 30 plus students. He has not budgeted for extra 7<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. If we don't have special education teachers, we will be out of compliance. These are not built into the budget.

Mr. Lincoln, Principal of Apponequet Regional High School (ARHS) said his FY09 budget was \$6,150,747. He asked for an increase of \$337,962 from FY08. He is being asked to cut \$600,000, which represented a cut in FY08 budget of \$262,038. His salaries increased \$154,941, heat expenses increased \$76,522, textbooks increased \$51,060 (there is a new program being offered, MCAS US History for 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and they need US History textbooks; replacement of equipment that is no longer of use, which was an \$8,688 increase. Under salaries: Appendix C: coaches and advisor, has an increase of \$8,338, maintenance of building increased \$9,000, total increase of \$337,942, minus salaries, heat expenses, textbooks, replacements and salaries and maintenance leave \$29,393 for the rest of budget increases requested. He must cut staff. His cuts included: one business/technology teacher; one library aide, matron, and the athletic director for a savings of \$176,118. He still needs an additional \$423,882. Other cuts include: Monday detentions by 30%, curriculum writing (100%), substitute teacher sick leave (25%); nurse overtime/sub 25%, professional development 75%; custodians overtime 50%; extended library hours 100%; that totals \$37,882. He still needs \$386,000 more in cuts. His next cuts were from instructional materials: textbooks 84%, library books 50%, supplies 25%; hardware 100%, software 100%; supplies for guidance 25%, which totals \$123,877. Additional cuts from maintenance, acquisition and replacement brought the total to \$150,340. This will severely impact how they do business day to day. Additional cuts needed are \$236,660. He next looked at student activities: transportation for band, student awards, band uniforms, music fees, school newspaper, and student activities, total \$14,450. He still needs \$221,210 cuts. He cut professional development by 75%, maintenance, energy sources, and there is a science

department retirement for savings totaling \$37,688. He still needs \$183,522 in cuts. He looked at athletics next: transportation, officials, supplies, fees/registrations, acquisition of equipment, maintenance, totals \$156,645. He still needs \$27,877 cuts. He is recommending all freshmen sports be cut for a savings of \$24,507 and the weight training advisor salary of \$2,420, for a total of \$26,927. This would total \$600,050 cuts. Mr. Lincoln said he could not cut salaries and still have athletics. Salaries cannot be funded, they must come out of the budget. In order for a sport to happen, you must provide transportation. He said they will have to institute user fees for the three required items necessary. He estimated the cost will be \$110,763 when freshman sports officials are gone. The user fees will be determined by the cost of the sport using a three-tiered system. Fundraising must be used for the non required items of \$38,327 through Boosters. There will be a \$1,000 user fee cap per family. Fees will be \$125, \$250 and \$325. He estimated a total raised of \$116,100 for 27 teams. He is also proposing a user fee of \$100 for unlimited access to all extra curricular activities. Dr. Furtado said these cuts could trigger a NEASC focus visit that could place Apponequet on probation. The High School has never had user fees for athletics or extra curricular activities. The impacts across the Region will be devastating.

A brief discussion occurred regarding the Request for Proposals (RFP) for developing the regional study. Dr. Furtado recommended that if there were no issues with the RFP, they move forward to get it out there. Jean Tierney said Freetown is still reviewing the studies that were requested. They will distribute the document at their next meeting. Dr. Furtado said he will get the copies to the members in advance, so that they can discuss it that night to get the RFP out as quickly as possible.

After the Regional School Committee adjourned their meeting, the Selectmen continued their meeting.

#### **Request to revise Class II auto sales license**

Chair Yeatts read a request by Gerald White of Lakeville Auto Body and Sales to change the name on his Class II auto sales licenses to Lakeville Auto Sales.

Upon a motion made by Selectman Maksy, with Chair Yeatts stepping down to second, the Board:

VOTED: To amend the Class II auto sales license of Lakeville Auto Body and Sales to Lakeville Auto Sales.  
Unanimous vote.

#### **Request to vote on unexpended balance on GRAIS renovation project**

Chair Yeatts said the Board had received a request from Lou Rodrigues to advise him what to do with the unexpended balance on the GRAIS renovation project.

Upon a motion made by Selectman Maksy, with Chair Yeatts stepping down to second, the Board:

VOTED: To apply the unexpended balance on the GRAIS renovation project to the debt service.

At 8:15 PM, upon a motion made by Selectman Maksy and with Chair Yeatts stepping down to second and stepping back up to vote, the Board unanimously

VOTED: To enter Executive Session and not return to Open Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. Polled vote: Selectman Maksy Aye, and Selectman Yeatts—Aye