

Town of Rowe – FY2012
 School Committee - Minutes
 Wednesday, February 22, 2012 – 6:00pm
 Rowe Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Loomis at 6:07pm.

Present: Chairman Bill Loomis and Lisa Danek-Burke

Absent: Lisa Miller

The committee met with the Board of Selectmen to present the preliminary School Budget for FY2013. The School Committee will hold their formal budget hearing on Monday, March 5th, and will vote to adopt the final budget at the March 13th meeting. Chairman Loomis stated that Superintendent Buonoconti and Business Manager Blier usually attend the meeting when the budget is presented to the town, but were not available this evening due to vacation and other meetings. Chairman Loomis stated that he will take to them any questions that cannot be answered this evening.

FY2013 School Budget:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% Increase Over FY2012</u>
Rowe School Local Budget	\$ 1,000,888	5%
Less Revolving Accounts	<u>(157,807)</u>	12%
Total Rowe School Budget	\$ 845,081	4%
Shared Services Budget	\$ 133,257	7%
TOTAL K-6 BUDGET	\$ 1,134,145	6%
High School Budget	\$ 418,455	13%
TOTAL FY2013 BUDGET	\$ 1,552,600	8%

Large increase in High School budget is due to increased number of grade 7-12 students. There will be several years with higher high school enrollment. Rowe Elementary School is now seeing dwindling enrollment which will eventually trickle down to decreased high school enrollments. Chairman Loomis stated that the dwindling Rowe School enrollment is a major item needing to be addressed in the future.

For FY2013 there are four (4) Pre-K (not part of School Choice program), two (2) Kindergarten, and one (1) Second grade declared openings.

Salary Wage increases for FY2013:

- **Teaching Staff:** Rowe teacher salary increases for FY13: if on steps then 1.8-3.5%; if at top of steps then 2.0%. Nurse will receive 2.0% increase. Chairman Loomis stated that the new three-year teacher contract effective August 2011 is a better contract than the previous one. He credited member Lisa Danek-Burke for working out the contract. Head Teacher stipend was increased from \$945 to \$1000 for FY13.
- **Principal:** Salary increase for FY2013 will be 2.5%
- **Non-teaching staff:** Increases for FY2013 will be 3.0%.
- **School Committee Secretary:** Will be increased to \$12.00 hour. Currently being paid approximately \$4.00 per hour.

It was noted that School Lunch receipts are down this year. Chairman Loomis will ask Principal Knittle what this is due to.

Transportation costs are very high. One expensive item is the transportation of one student in the Hoosac Tunnel section that is costing \$25,000 to be transported from their home on lower Tunnel Road to the Shunpike area c Rt 2 to meet the regular bus. It is possible that some other type of arrangement can be made in lieu of sending a bus to that remote location for one student.

Selectman McLatchy again questioned the \$15K for the Spanish teacher at Mohawk Middle School. He does not believe this is cost effective as the same class(es) are available in later years.

Capital Items for FY2013: The School Committee presented the following request for Capital purchases for FY2013:

• Fixed Windows	\$ 92,292
• Operable Windows	27,318
• Laptops (replace I-Books)	6,000
• Mac Books	<u>4,000</u>
TOTAL	\$ 129,610

Selectman Clancy suggested that the School Committee ought to look into purchasing some I-Pads in lieu of some of the laptops/Mac Books next year, as they are more versatile and cheaper than laptops/Mac Books.

The long-term capital plan presented by the School Committee will be redone in the format used by all other town departments. It will be provided to Town Accountant Miller in Excel© so items can be sorted as needed.

School Committee Secretary: Secretary Paul McLatchy requested that he be paid his stipend for the past two months. The School Committee voted unanimously (2/0) to pay Mr. McLatchy \$100 on the next payroll warrant for the previous two month's work (stipend is \$600/year or \$50/month).

Adjournment: The School Committee voted unanimously (2/0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen B. Miller
Temporary Secretary

Approved:

William A. Loomis, Chairman

Lisa A. Danek-Burke

Date Approved

Lisa L. Miller

Attachments:

- Proposed FY2013 Budget
- Rowe School FY2013 Capital Plan Request
- Rowe School Capital Plan