

TOWN OF EAST KINGSTON
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Public Hearing on The Proposed 2008-09 School District Budget

DATE: 2/5/08
TIME: 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM.
PLACE: E. Kingston Elementary School

Present: S. Penna, School Board Chair
D. Miller, School Board (Vice-Chair)
R. Nigrello, School Board
J. Eaves, Principal
J. Frew, Assist. Superintendent
N. Lunney, CFO, SAU 16

Visitors: 4 Community Members.

The public hearing on the proposed 2008-09 SD Budget was called to order at 6:30 by J. Frew. N. Lunney apologized that he would not be available for the entire meeting, but took 20 minutes to present his prepared overview of the budget. Handouts were also available for those in attendance.

The total budget for '08-'09 is \$2,526,762. an increase of \$82,882. (3.39%). The tax impact will amount to \$28.00/\$100,000. Seventy-seven percent of the total budget is for salaries and benefits. Seventeen percent of the budget includes SPED, SAU, utilities, transportation and debt service. Five percent of the budget is in non-salary, maintenance and transfers, the only discretionary spending. It was noted that East Kingston's budget increase is the lowest in the SAU, and both N. Lunney and the Board complimented J. Eaves on his continued efforts in presenting a fiscally sound budget.

C. Jaques spoke to his perception that the present philosophy in education seems to penalize the brighter students to benefit the special sector. Although he notes that this is not the case at EKES, he has observed this in the middle and high school. As this subject would be better addressed at the Co-op Board level, J. Frew will provide Mr. Jaques with the schedule of their meetings. Mr. Jaques further noted the increase in cars in the parking lot at the school and wondered if this reflects an increase in staff. J. Eaves responded that while staff numbers remain at the same level, there are many volunteers in the school, and EKES benefits from a very active/fruitful relationship with UNH and many interns work with the staff on a regular basis. The benefits of this program were further outlined.

L. Smith asked about the Board's plans to publicize the time of the SD Meeting in March, noting that in the past meeting was always held at 1:00 PM, but this year the meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM. Discussion ensued with input from L. Smith, regards how best to address this issue. Utilizing the town web site, posting in the Carriage Town News and the school newspaper are all avenues that will be utilized.

With no further questions, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Levesque, Secretary