

## **Minutes Budget/Finance Committee**

August 8, 2017

Central Office

Committee Members Present: Bill MacDonald, Samantha Brown, Susie Hopkins, Don Mendell, Ryan Parker

Others Present: Mike Hammer, Trish Hayes, Liz Mares, Suzanne Nowinski, Ken Sands, Staff and Community members

### **1. Public Comment**

Lisa Kelly, a St. Albans resident and teacher, discussed the amount that would have been returned to the residents based on the past town surplus because of taking taxes out at a higher rate. The amount came out to be \$3.00 or \$4.00's. She asked that the Board honor the teachers and add back in some money for salary increases.

### **2. Discussion of Options for the State Revenue**

Mr. Hammer discussed the options available to the Board based on the voters having approved the article to 1) allocate money to articles in the budget, 2) create a fund balance, and 3) return money to the towns.

Based on the guidance from the DOE and our attorney, we do not need to directly return 50% of the \$717,000.00 to the towns.

Don Mendell wanted to know how much it would cost to clear past deficit; Trish mentioned \$672,000.00 from 2016 audit.

There is an option to return money to towns through the change in the ED 279 and lower Mill Rate from 8.29 to 8.19; however, there was much discussion about keeping the majority of the money for a fund balance and to continue the process to financial stability.

It was decided to make a recommendation to the full Board to increase the budget by \$8,000 because of miscalculation, by Mr. Hammer, of the amount for Subject Area Leader stipends in the collective bargaining agreement.

It was also decided to not recommend an increase in the budget of \$6,700.00, for a half day, for the assistant special education director, to bring the position to three days a week.

Requested information:

Samantha Brown asked how much more money was required for all students at the high school to get laptops.

Bill McDonald inquired as to how much the towns billed out based on the differences in the budget that were voted upon two years ago.

The Committee would like to know which Mill Rate within the ED 279 each town assessed its taxes.

3. **Other** - None
4. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Hammer  
Superintendent of Schools