

Kearsarge Regional School District

**Municipal Budget Committee Meeting**  
**6:30 PM**  
**November 15, 2022**

**Professional Development Center**  
**165 Main Street**  
**Kearsarge Learning Campus, New London**

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Warrant Article Discussion
3. PEAK Collective Bargaining Agreement
4. Other

This meeting is available to the public via zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89854346468>

**Municipal Budget Committee**  
 Minutes of the Public Meeting  
 Kearsarge Regional School District  
 October 25, 2022 - 6:30 pm

<b>I. Call to Order</b>	The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
<b>II. Roll Call</b>	<p>Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- James Bibbo - Bradford</li> <li>- Robert Hemenway - Newbury</li> <li>- Robert DeFelice - Sutton (Via Zoom)</li> <li>- Michelle Kendrick - Warner</li> <li>- Richard Anderson - New London</li> <li>- David Bates - Warner</li> <li>- Winfried Feneberg - Superintendent</li> <li>- Michael Bessette - Assistant Superintendent</li> <li>- Larry LeBoeuf - Business Administrator</li> <li>- Bebe Hammond Casey - School Board Representative (Via Zoom)</li> </ul> <p>Absent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tom Schamberg - Wilmot</li> <li>- Lyndsay Lund Harkins - New London</li> <li>- Luke Gorman - Springfield</li> </ul>
	<i>Ms. Kendrick made a motion to allow Mr. DeFelice to vote via Zoom for medical reasons. Mr. Hemenway seconded. The Motion carried 5-0-0.</i>
<b>III. Approval of Minutes</b>	<i>Mr. DeFelice made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 11, 2022, Municipal Budget Committee meeting as written. Mr. Hemenway seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-0.</i>
<b>IV. SAU</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Committee with version three of the budget, noting reductions in the amount of \$204,500.00. The Superintendent discussed where the budget was reduced: the phasing of mowers for the Middle School, reducing the paving at the Kearsarge Learning Center, and the phasing of the sprinkler system at New London Elementary.</li> <li>● Supt. Feneberg apprised the Committee that the School Board has voted to postpone the STEAM Renovation project for a period of one year. He discussed with the Committee the challenges to phasing the project. He stated that during this delay in the project, the District will focus on an information campaign to get the word out about the project.</li> <li>● Mr. Bates noted that at previous meetings, concerns were expressed regarding the aging heating system at the High School. He asked what happens if that system goes down this winter. The Superintendent noted that at the moment the District will need to find ways to patch and get through any situation that arises with the boilers; however, there is a plan being developed to get the boilers replaced. The School Board has approved the engineering. As a result of the District's quick acting, there is a possibility that these boilers may be replaced next summer; however,</li> </ul>

the funds are not in the budget. Supt. Feneberg stated that the plan would be to use some funds from a trust fund and the rest would be covered by year-end savings. Mr. LeBoeuf stated that the total cost is estimated to be around \$500,000.00.

- Mr. Anderson asked if the District will need to install a sprinkler system in the entire building at New London Elementary. Supt. Fenberg stated that is the Department of Education's recommendation. He explained that after the Department of Education approves the plan for the installation of the sprinkler system, the District has 5-years to complete the project.
- Mr. Hemenway expressed concern regarding the overall percentage increase of the budget this year over years past. The Superintendent stated that looking at the Consumer Price Index (CPI) cost of living/inflation rates the budget has been in alignment with that percentage for the last several years.
- Mr. Bibbo asked if there is a projected budget surplus. Mr. LeBoeuf stated that it looks like the budget will be pretty level with the boilers and the LED project. He noted that the District will receive a rebate in the amount of \$86,000.00 from Eversource for the LED project. Mr. Leboeuf went on to discuss what lines in the budget are facing the largest increases, pointing out the increases to the wages and utilities lines.
- Mr. LeBoeuf noted that the employer contribution to the retirement system is lower this year than in years past.
- Mr. DeFelice asked about the possibility of putting together estimated costs of larger project expenses, such as the High School HVAC system.
- The Superintendent shared with the Committee the projected enrollment statistics of the next 10 years, stating that in 10 years the projections show the District adding 100 to 150 students in contrast with the rest of the state.
- Mr. Anderson stated that though the numbers in the budget seem high, the items that have increased in price of the District are largely in part the same items that have increased for homeowners.
- Mr. Anderson asked if the Committee is comfortable with tabling the STEAM Renovation project for 1-year. Mr. DeFelice stated that he is comfortable with tabling it for a year as long as the District continues to make progress on getting the word out about the project. The Superintendent noted that ideally, to continue to spread the word about the project, it would be good to have someone from each of the towns to champion the project.
- Mr. Anderson discussed certain costs that the District is required to incur per the State.
- Mr. Anderson asked if the District has moved at all in looking at solar panels. The Superintendent noted that this has continued to be discussed by the Facilities Committee.
- Mr. Hemenway presented the Committee with two draft bills he and Mr. Schamberg have put together and submitted to the General Assembly to reduce property taxes. He noted that he believes it's a good idea; however, it would cost the State a lot of money. Mr. Anderson asked about the amount the State would need to raise. Mr. Hemenway noted

	that the increase would need to be from the current \$3,700.00 to \$9,000.00 per student.
<b>V. Adjourn</b>	<i>Mr. DeFelice made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hemenway seconded. The Motion carried 5-0-1 (Mr. Bibbo was not present for the vote). The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.</i>

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Hilton