

MINUTES
SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD
December 8, 2005
Budget worksession
Souhegan High School-Info Center

Chairperson Steve Coughlan called the meeting to order at 5 pm.

Present:

Souhegan Cooperative School Board: Steve Coughlan, John Walsh, Janet Gaynor, John Rizzi, Jeanne Ludt, Phyllis Thomas

Administration: Scott Prescott

Financial Advisory Committee: Art Faint, Christine Morley Minutes Recorder: Phyllis Thomas

Steve Coughlan distributed newest draft of budget received from Susan Ward. First discussion was academic stipends. Motion made by John Walsh to give 2 percent increase to academic stipends. Seconded by John Rizzi. Vote was 4 yes and 1 no. Motion passed.

Steve Coughlan asked for goal before further budget discussion.

Motion made by Janet Gaynor that the board aim for no more than 6.3 percent growth in budget over last year's budget. Seconded by John Rizzi. After discussion, John Walsh moved to amend the motion to read 6.8 percent -. Janet Gaynor seconded. After discussion on the increases in energy costs and special education, the board voted unanimously in favor of the amended motion. Motion passed.

The board discussed ways to decrease the budget.

Scott Prescott left at 6:49 pm.

Jeanne Ludt asked why the salary number for the SRO was up so high. Art Faint said he thought the amount was based on how many days the SRO spent at the school, and he believed the number used was 211. The board questioned why the SRO would be working more days than the teachers, who are paid on 190 days. Jeanne Ludt said she would check with Susan Ward to clarify SRO pay.

The board discussed switching to a gross budget process. Steve Coughlan noted that the idea had been considered in years past, but it never seemed like a good time to switch. He polled the board and financial advisory committee members, finding some in favor of switching and some not sure. It was decided that Steve would consult with Susan Ward on gross budget process.

Motion to adjourn by Janet Gaynor. Seconded by John Walsh. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.