



# TOWN OF BOW

## Budget Committee

10 Grandview Road, Bow, New Hampshire 03304

Phone (603) 228-1187 | Fax (603) 224-6680 | Website [www.bownh.gov](http://www.bownh.gov)

## Bow Budget Committee Bow School District Unapproved Minutes January 27, 2020

Mark Zerba, Chair	P	Melissa Radomski (7:15)	P
Jeffrey Knight, Vice Chair	P	Kathy Garfield	P
Bob Arnold, Secretary	P	Benjamin Kiniry	P
Christopher Nicolopoulos (Selectman Rep.)	P	Jennifer Strong-Rain (School Brd. Rep)	P
		June Branscom (School Board Alt.)	A
Dr. Dean S. T. Cascadden , Superintendent of Schools	P	Duane Ford, Assistant Superintendent for Business Administration	P

\* P = present; A = Absent

Also present were members of the public and some members of the school board.

### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

### II. Approval of Outstanding Minutes – January 20, 2020

#### Motion:

Jeff Knight moved and Kathy Garfield seconded to approve the minutes of January 20, 2020. The Chair called for discussion and noted a change to be made in the last paragraph under Item III. “School Board” should be corrected to “Budget Committee” There being no further discussion the Committee voted. The minutes were approved as amended with 7 in favor and 1 abstention (7-0-0).

### III. School Budget Discussion

Chair Zerba summarized the prior meeting for those who were not present. The Committee discussed some additional line items in the Bow Elementary and Memorial Schools budgets which showed increases. The Committee also discussed the Bow Elementary School (BES) addition/renovation project with specific reference to Article 4 which proposed to raise and appropriate \$700,000 for design and engineering fees for the project. The Committee was concerned about spending \$700,000 in anticipation of the taxpayers approving a \$10-million-dollar bond, which they might not. There was discussion about setting aside an increased amount in the school’s capital reserve fund (CRF) and what that amount should be.

The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent were asked about future enrollment projections and the feasibility of having an outside consultant take a look at the enrollment data.

Review of the School District budget resumed with the Bow High School (BHS) section. The Budget Committee asked questions about line items showing increased amounts. Art Education was cut last year and this year it is being put back. Replacement of band instruments are on a rotation schedule. Textbooks

went down because the school is trying to go with open source textbooks. They are waiting to see how much copying costs are associated with them. Athletic equipment includes new and replacement football uniforms and equipment. The Committee wanted to change the estimated natural gas line item to \$70,000 from \$106,280 based on actual use the previous year. Building and Grounds showed a large increase in Repairs Inst. Equipment.

Student Services – The proposed budget includes the addition of a Student Services Coordinator. Bow High School (BHS) is the only school that doesn't have one. Based on recommendations from an outside consultant who evaluated existing speech services, there is a Speech Services reduction and savings of \$175,170. BHS currently has the highest population of special education students. The budget proposes to add an additional Special Education Teacher and three (3) Applied Behavior Analyst Building Based Interventionists. Changes to Medicaid at the Federal level have made it more difficult to get reimbursed for Medicaid services provided to students.

Custodial/Maintenance/Grounds Department – There is no changes in staffing, hours or location being made at this time. The school is continuing to monitor their electrical and natural gas supply and is exploring efficiency solutions. Transportation Department – This budget includes the purchase of two (2) buses and one additional driver position. The Committee reviewed the bus list and average miles driven. Food Service Department – This department is self-funded and may return monies to the Fund Balance.

When the Committee meets on Wednesday, January 29, 2020, the Committee will have a list of items for additional review and discussion.

#### **IV. Other Business - None**

#### **V. Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn.

#### **Motion:**

Selectman Nicolopoulos moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM. Motion was seconded by Jeff Knight and carried by unanimous vote of the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Gilman, Recording Secretary