

Town of Brentwood
Budget Committee Meeting at Brentwood Town Office
Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2021

Present: Keith Levitsky (Chair), Lois DeYoung, Liz Faria, Melissa Litchfield, Michelle Siudut.
Attending remotely were Andy Artimovich, Alina Arida.

Visitors: Robin Wrighton, Letty Bedard, Daphne Woss, Joyce Keegal, Chief Bird, Karen Clement, Ken Christensen, Bob Stephens, Brian Duffy, Wayne Robinson, Rebecca Dunham, Eric Trump.
Attending remotely were Doug Cowie, Andrea Bickum, Andy Gray, Liz McConnell, Chris Andrewski (SAU), Anthony Phillips, Jack Mitchell, Kim Leo, the Library, Michelle Larson (SAU), Ron Kew (Swasey principal), Robin Woodward, Bobby Cole, Mollie O'Keefe (SAU), Allison Higgins, Kimberly Woods, Alex Morgan, Sue Mayo, Bill Faria

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. Motion by Keith, seconded by Liz to allow Andy and Alina to attend remotely. Voting in favor were Melissa, Michelle, Liz, Lois, Keith.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Lois, seconded by Keith to discuss minutes from the January 25, 2021 meeting.
Motion by Keith seconded by Michelle, to approve as amended. Voting in favor were Melissa, Michelle, Andy, Alina, Lois, Keith; Liz abstained; passed 6-0-1

Warrant Articles

C/R \$25,000 for police facility. Motion by Michelle, seconded by Keith to discuss. Building committee asked for \$50,000; Selectmen asked them to reduce to \$25,000. The fund was established last year with \$50,000. Motion by Andy, seconded by Liz to approve \$25,000. Voting in favor were Andy and Keith; voting against were Melissa, Michelle, Liz, Lois; Alina abstained; failed 2-4-1

Paraprofessional Contract. Melissa thanked the paras publicly for what they have done to ensure the opening of schools. The Brentwood School Board and the Brentwood Educational Support Professionals' Association have reached a collective bargaining agreement. Melissa distributed a comparison of the current/proposed agreements.

Motion by Keith at 7 pm to recess the regular meeting and begin the public hearing.
Public hearing ended at 7:31 pm and the Committee meeting reconvened at 7:33 pm.

Details of the proposed agreement are.

Personal leave: Currently 3 days. *Proposed no change*

Bereavement leave: Currently 2 days. *Proposed 3 days*

Sick leave: Currently up to 7 days per year with ability to carry over 60 days , no payment upon leaving or retiring. *Proposed up to 7 days at beginning of school year with ability to carry over up to 35 days. Require medical note if out for 4 consecutive days. Establish sick bank, capped at 100 days, employees can donate up to 5 days as long as they maintain 6 days in their personal accrual.*

Paid Holidays: Currently Veterans day upon hire; at 3 years Thanksgiving and day after Christmas; at 6 years Labor Day; at 11th year MLK. *Proposed- upon hire Veterans Day, Thanksgiving day, day after Thanksgiving; at 2nd year Labor Day and Christmas; at 3rd year MLK day.*

Health & Dental: Currently at district rate, 100% paid by employee. *Proposed no change*

Professional Conference: Currently \$1000 aggregate to be shared, at Principal's discretion. *Proposed adds a \$150 stipend if attendee is asked to present after conference*

Probationary period: Currently 60 days. *Proposed one year.*

Retirement: *Proposed at least 60 years of age and at least 15 consecutive years of service in Brentwood to qualify for \$150 for each year of service in Brentwood*

Wage increase: *Proposed 3% for 2021-2022, 3% for 2022-2023*

It was stated that 3 other towns in our district have para unions. It is the paras wish to unionize, and we need to allow it.

Motion by Melissa, seconded by Keith to approve a salary increases of \$30,313 in 2022 and \$19,152 in 2023 as part of the collective bargaining agreement. Voting in favor were Melissa, Lois, Alina, Andy, Keith; voting against were Michelle, Liz; motion carries 5-2-0

Food service. Swasey would like to bring food service operation in house to Swasey school to improve food quality and service. A proposal was distributed. The request is for \$35,000.

Motion by Melissa, seconded by Michelle; voting to approve were Melissa, Michelle, Liz, Lois, Andy, Keith, voting against was Alina; passed 6-1-0

Other Business

Motion by Lois, seconded by Liz to discuss Library budget. Voting in favor were Melissa, Michelle, Liz, Lois, Andy, Alina, Keith. Discussion about salary increases when the library has not been open to the public; they are open 7 hours less than pre-covid. Lending volume fluctuates as compared to pre-covid; digital offerings are up. The operating budget is level funded, salary/benefits up 4.2% for an overall 3% increase. Motion by Lois, seconded by Liz to reduce budget to \$245,826 (difference of \$5,576). Voting in favor were Michelle, Liz, Lois; voting against were Melissa, Andy, Alina, Keith; motion fails 3-4-0

Motion by Liz, seconded by Lois for a vote of No Confidence in SAU Dr David Ryan and Executive Director of Finance & Operations Mollie O'Keefe for failure to provide adequate education to the children of Brentwood for a fair cost. Discussion points included the Co-op makes up 80% of our tax bill; the budget amount continues to increase while enrollment goes down; unsuccessful attempts to reduce budget thorough deliberative session; we are paying a high price and not getting our money's worth. Voting in favor were Michelle, Liz, Lois, Keith; voting against were Andy, Alina; Melissa abstained. Motion carries 4-2-1

Melissa tried to explain information about the adequacy monies we get from the state. It appears we may get a substantial amount less as compared to last year.

Robin Wrighton extended thanks to the budget committee for their hard work. Other citizen comments from Kim Leo, Anthony Phillips and Jack Mitchell.

Motion by Michelle, seconded by Lois to adjourn. Voting in favor were Melissa, Michelle, Liz, Lois, Alina, Andy, Keith; passed 7-0-0 meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Upcoming Meetings

March 13: Town Meeting at Swasey School, 9 am

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Siudut, Secretary