

GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

High School Library
Proposed FY08 Budget Public Hearing Minutes
February 28, 2007
(Approved April 25,2007)

PRESENT:

Ms Cindy Barrett, Secretary
Dr. Forrest Buzan
Ms Berta Erickson
Dr. Paul Funch
Ms Karen Lofgren
Mr. Chuck McKinney, Chair
Mr. Frank O'Connell, Vice-Chair

ADMINISTRATION:

Dr. Alan Genovese, Superintendent
Timothy Sheehan, Director of Business and Finance
Dr. Susan Rubel, Director of Curriculum/Staff Development
Ms Joan Endicott, Director of Pupil Services

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

Kayleigh O'Brien

STAFF, PRESS, OTHERS: H. Sato, Lowell Sun; J. Kulesz, Groton Herald; P. Comtois, Groton Landmark;
C. Scafidi, S. Byrne, L. Zimmaro, G. Babin, C. Olson, P. Cunningham, D. Nicholson, B. Raucci, J. O'Hara,
J. Dillon, See attached sign-in sheet

The GDRSC Public Hearing on the proposed FY08 budget opened at 8:07 p.m.

Dr. Genovese announced a ConnectEd call was made to remind people about tonight's hearing and if they could not attend, they were encouraged to watch it on cable. Copies of the presentation were distributed.

Dr. Genovese recognized and congratulated the administrators for identifying a number of needs in the district, more than could be accomplished in one budget cycle. Compelling arguments were made to justify the twenty-two requested positions and how they would contribute to improving student achievement. He stated it was a difficult process as they have to look incrementally at what they are trying to do right now to move the district forward and some prioritizing needed to be done. The budget talks about approximately eight positions they feel are every important to address some needs in the district.

Dr. Genovese said the budget process goes over a number of months and administrators met in subcommittee meetings to go over their budget line items and answer questions. Mr. O'Connell, Ms Barrett and Dr. Funch sat on the subcommittee and many town officials, as well as many representatives from Groton and Dunstable, were able to attend various meetings. He noted through their participation, they have been able to refine the process.

Dr. Genovese said the statement, *Together, A Promise to Excel*, has never been more accurate than when tied to the budget process. The 2006-2007 district goals are in play and Dr. Genovese suspects they will remain in play, perhaps with some expansions. He noted the district does have a Vision Statement and reminded the public the district is guided by this. He stated the budget is tied back to the commitment to strive for excellence and high academic achievement.

Overarching goals of each school, as they relate to the district's goals, were included in the handout. F. Buzan asked if the school goals are developed by the administrators and teachers and Dr. Genovese said they are developed by the school council. He noted they are in the process of posting all the goals in the building sites.

The focus of the FY08 budget is to improve student achievement as measured by a number of assessments. They want to move more students in all subgroups into the proficient and advanced categories. In general, class sizes are maintained and they hope to reduce the fifth grade class size a little bit. The budget addresses the emerging academic, social and emotional needs of students as identified by data, supports technology upgrades to facilitate and enhance teaching and learning and provides professional development opportunities for staff to support teaching and learning. There is a component to maintain the care and maintenance of the buildings and to identify and plan for future capital projects. Prior to the March 7th School Committee meeting, Budget and Finance will be meeting to review a number of items.

Enrollment projections are fairly flat but they have larger middle school classes moving up and they are projecting the high school will grow by about 100 students within the next three years. They are trying to make adjustments with this budget so they maintain class sizes they have and do not slip backwards. A slide of the executive summary with the major budget categories was shown and Dr. Genovese stated the budget total is \$30,666,653, an increase of 9.96% over the FY07 budget. A pie chart was reviewed and Dr. Genovese stated 57% of the budget represents direct services to students.

Dr. Genovese stated Mr. Sheehan has been a tremendous asset to this budget process. With respect to salaries, T. Sheehan said in FY08, the district will be in their third and final year of the contract with the teachers' union. He stated the raises were back loaded and the largest increase occurs in the third year so they are seeing a much larger increase in the base salaries going from FY07 to FY08. They have tried very hard to accurately capture the step increases. He stated they have a FY07 salary shortfall of \$160,470 and this is due to several positions being added and not capturing some of the stipends and compensation packages for some of the staff. Other pay raises go into effect in FY08 (\$87,523) and \$512,090 has been set aside to pay for salaries and insurance for the new positions that are part of the new budget. A salary adjustment of \$243,015 is to provide for pay raises for the bargaining units whose contracts expire this year. T. Sheehan stated \$1,690,086 is needed to cover these salary categories.

Dr. Genovese stated the issue about salaries and increases came up at the Budget and Finance meetings and he said one of their goals is to attract and retain highly qualified staff and it is important they remain competitive. A slide showing a comparison of area teacher salary ranges shows Groton Dunstable is in the middle.

T. Sheehan reviewed the major expense factors over which the district has very little discretion. They were projecting a 12% increase in health insurance costs (\$349,320) but this may need to be increased by another \$87,330. They will be in the third and final year of their contract with Dee Bus Service and there is a built in increase of \$51,292 in year three. Other factors include employee retirement, SPED transportation, utilities, workers' compensation, retiree health insurance and Medicaid. They also need to add the School Resource Officer. They pay $\frac{3}{4}$ of his salary and the town pays $\frac{1}{4}$. This item was left out of the budget as prior to FY07, the officer was being paid with a federal grant and once it expired, the district and town were required to pick up that cost. These major drivers add \$708,507 to the FY08 budget.

T. Sheehan stated they are trying to bring the best business practices they can to the management of the district. Number one on his list was to budget more accurately the salaries and utilities so they would not see the variances, both favorably and unfavorably, they have seen in the past couple of years. They have looked at all the past utility bills and found several cases where they paid a commercial rate for electricity rather than the government rate or they were not getting the lowest government rate to which they were entitled.

They are in the process of reviewing the phone service and rates and are trying to renegotiate their lease with Xerox so all the copiers will be pooled to reduce overage charges. In FY08, they plan to develop an on-line system for maintenance work orders and custodial supply inventories, sign on with School Spring, an on-line employee hiring system that will reduce advertising expenses, and install an on-line requisition and purchase order tracking system.

T. Sheehan stated they are trying to add some program initiatives they feel are desperately needed in the district. These include the 7.9 positions, starting a long range program to replace computers in the high school and reallocate the existing computers to the middle and elementary schools and upgrade the technology infrastructure. They have added \$53,000 to support the athletic budget so the operating budget would cover the salaries and the user fees and gate receipts would cover the expense portion of the budget for the high school and middle school. He stated if they were able to stabilize the budget in this way, it would provide more predictability for the athletic director and allow him to start reducing the user fees currently in place. A modest increase of \$20,000 has been added for deferred maintenance for their eight buildings. These initiatives total \$665,000 and represent an increase of approximately 2.38% over the FY07 budget

Dr. Genovese stated the new positions tie back to the focus of improving student achievement. Some of the administrators talked about how these positions tie back to what they are trying to accomplish.

Principal Joe Dillon said they are requesting two additional high school teachers. With an increase in student population from 823 to 863, they feel in order to maintain class size at 21.5:1, it is essential to have these teaching positions. He said it is difficult to determine what those positions would be in terms of content area as of right now, they are beginning their course selection process where students drive their schedule. He said it is probable the additional staffing would likely occur in math, English, science and/or social studies as these are the areas where they currently have the highest class sizes. A slide showing class sizes without two new teachers, with one new teacher and with two new teachers was shown. J. Dillon said the School Committee's guideline for class size is 20:1 but this has never been reached. He stated they have 71 class sections of 25 or more students and 23 class sections of 30 or more out of a total of just over 300 sections. Without the increase in staffing, the numbers will increase and on the other side, they do run classes with fewer than 18 students. He stated they cannot take a block of students and move them from one period to another and it would be difficult to run classes with less than 16 students without additional teachers.

With the addition of two teachers, J. Dillon said they will be able to maintain the existing high school program and maintain current class size. He stated they are proud of what they offer the students now but feel they can always do better by creating more offerings to meet the needs of the twenty-first century student. They are also proud of their outcomes in terms of student achievement. Without two additional teachers, it is possible student outcomes would be negatively impacted. They will be unable to offer courses with fewer than 16 to 18 students, significantly impacting the AP program, MCAS support classes and other singleton course offerings. He stated AP Chemistry (currently an independent study), AP Physics, AP Statistics, AP Biology, MCAS Math and MCAS English would likely not run without two additional staff members. He noted their MCAS scores indicate the teachers and students do a tremendous job in remediation when possible and providing support for students to pass MCAS. Other classes that could be impacted include ceramics, Studio Art 3, Studio Art 4, Latin 4 & 5 and French 5. Class sizes would be close to 22.5 to 1.

Joan Endicott, Director of Pupil Services, said they are requesting an additional middle school SPED teacher. The caseload is currently 20:1 at the middle school and 15:1 in the rest of the district and there is a major inequity. They are expecting 117 SPED students next year and without the extra teacher, the caseload would go up to 23:1. Due to the large number of students coming into the middle school still learning how to read, as opposed to reading to learn, they need to focus on providing more intensive reading services.

J. Endicott reviewed the number of students receiving comprehensive/intensive IEP services (7 or more educational services) provided on a weekly basis. She stated there is a lot of energy and teacher support that needs to be provided for a selective group of needy students. They have identified 30 students in the Warning MCAS category and many more are in the Needs Improvement category. They have looked at how they deliver instruction and found the SPED and regular ed staff are doing fabulous jobs but cannot collaborate and partner the way they want to in order to maximize quality services. They are discovering that using a collaborative model is the best way to deliver services to SPED children.

She stated they want their teachers to be able to be more available for parents and teachers across all settings and to have more co-planning time. They also want to be able to communicate with parents more consistently.

Dr. Rubel stated they currently have a .5 FTE math specialist for 80 K-8 classroom/SPED teachers. Quantified, that would provide approximately 11 minutes a week of in-class coaching support per teacher. She stated research clearly suggests that student achievement is positively correlated with teachers who have content area expertise. The 2006 MCAS results reveal the need for math improvement. Their plan is to add time to existing part time math coordinators and add a 1.0 math specialist. They would be spread among the four schools, K-8. Quantified, that would provide approximately 38 minutes a week of in-class coaching support per teacher.

Dr. Rubel stated the model of coaching support is relatively new but substantial research shows a coaching model of professional development is quite effective. Their goal would be to impact learning by reducing the percentage of students in the Needs Improvement or Warning categories by 5% to 10% a year.

Principal Beth Raucci said she began conversations with Dr. Genovese early in the school year and presented a case to begin to reduce class sizes at the middle school over the next several years. Historically, they have been the highest in the district and it is beginning to show. She stated they agreed to begin with grade 5. The students have done a good job transitioning into the middle school but they recognize they are still 10 year olds. She said their class sizes went up and their aide support went down and 41% of the current 4th graders are in the MCAS Needs Improvement/Warning categories in math. The SPED population did not attain Adequate Yearly Progress in math for the second year in a row.

B. Raucci said she is proposing they add a 5th grade teacher who would be dually certified in SPED and regular ed math and would help them reduce math class sizes to 21:1. The additional teacher would give assistance to 5th grade teachers to ensure an elementary setting for 5th graders, support students in the math classrooms, increase academic excellence and provide a smooth transition into middle school. She stated Title One services are available at the middle school but math is only a .5 and the support is at grades 7 and 8. Children coming into the 5th grade are still struggling readers and the Title One support in reading is available.

With the outdated and aging computers, Gary Babin said students have unequal access to some of the curriculum because some of the systems are unable to access some web resources and cannot run modern software. Learning time is reduced by unreliable hardware and the average time to repair a computer in the elementary schools is 22 days and 6 days in the middle school where they have a 68% ratio of more modern computers. He noted where there is a single machine for student usage, 22 days is a considerable period of time for the class to lose that resource. He said implementing the program of gradual computer replacement will create more equitable access, allow updated curriculum content to be introduced into the elementary schools, increase learning time with the use of new hardware and less time will be required for technicians.

(As a point of information, there was no discussion regarding the Assistant Network Manager position. See the handout for information.)

J. Endicott stated the role of guidance has expanded over time and includes supporting students with their social, emotional and skill building needs. They are proposing an increase in guidance at the high school to a .5 guidance and a .2 vocational combination counselor. She stated they need to provide work opportunities for their Alternative Ed and Life Skills population. At the middle school they are proposing a .5 guidance counselor, a .1 guidance counselor at Florence Roche, a .1 guidance counselor at Prescott and a .3 guidance counselor at Swallow Union. She noted the guidance caseload is 274:1 at the high school and 316:1 at the middle school. They are targeting support services for the incoming 5th grade.

She stated guidance is involved with providing all support services that include SPED meetings, behavior management, group and individual counseling, assisting students with pre-teen developmental issues and being available for crisis management. Elementary guidance counselors focus on behavioral concerns and skill building. Prescott and Swallow Union share a counselor and the travel time impacts availability. She noted the relationships the counselors build with the students, and the continued support they provide, have kept a lot of needy kids in-district which is where they want them to be.

With respect to the athletic budget, T. Sheehan said Mr. Twomey asked them to convey his message that he believes sports is a positive experience for many of the students but the district does not provide as many sports and opportunities for students as comparable districts in their league. He has developed some long range plans and would like to add in-door track and JV football next year. Mr. Twomey gave a presentation in FY03 about long range plans to bring football to the district but the school committee never formally approved it. The cooperative program with Ayer has been very successful but the number of participants has grown considerably and he believes it is time for Groton Dunstable to start their own program. He would like to add boys and girls in-door track because it adds tremendous opportunities for students to participate and comparable schools do so as well.

T. Sheehan stated he and Mr. Byrne spent a lot of time creating a five year Capital Improvement Plan and identifying the items they need to do in FY08 through FY12. They include the repaving of the middle school driveway, replacing the HVAC system at the Performing Arts Center and they need to develop a program to replace the 4 to 5 twenty year old underground oil storage tanks. Items in this plan cost \$25,000 and up. Dr. Genovese said this is a work in progress and the School Committee will need to review this and decide the priorities. Budget and Finance also has not had the chance to weigh in on things.

T. Sheehan said they also have a five year Building Improvement Plan and these items would be funded through the buildings and grounds operating budget. A number of items have been identified that would be worked on each year. Approximately \$80,000 has been built into the FY08 budget, an increase of \$17,000.

T. Sheehan said the operating budget stands at \$30,666,653, an increase of 9.96%. Today they received the preliminary Chapter 70 figures from the Governor's budget and the assessments have been revised from those distributed on January 31st. Their Chapter 70 increase is a very modest \$143,000 or 1.35%. This reflects the change in the formula by which the money is being distributed, the most important part being the inclusion of aggregate personal income in addition to property values. State-wide, the Chapter 70 budget has gone up 5.7%. He stated the assessments are lower than those printed in the January 31st version but they do not have other specific revenue figures included and it looks like transportation and Charter Schools are going to be relatively flat. Dr. Genovese said the information received today showed regional transportation down \$40,000.

Dr. Genovese thanked the administrators here this evening and noted they spent a lot of time constantly going back and re-looking at the budget from different perspectives.

With respect to the athletics budget, L. Moskow said she hoped the new numbers would be incorporated into what was handed out tonight. She said she found the budget difficult to understand given the changes that were made with moving things around. Since they are heavily relying on outside sources for this budget, more than half of it depends on user fees which are being raised, not lowered. She stated \$40,000 in donations and gate receipts are not guaranteed. She said it would be helpful to have the amounts spent on these things last year and to have the actual revenues. In addition to the condition and availability of fields, Ms Moskow said she questions a budget that is heavily dependent on outside sources and said it is not a good way to generate a budget. She also questions the priorities in adding new programs this year when there are so many other needs in the district. She said playing football elsewhere is all ready an option. She would like to know how the comparable districts fund these offerings. She feels they should implement these when they actually have the money in the budget.

K. Riggert stated substitutes throughout the budget are increasing in large amounts as well as custodial overtime at the Central Office. T. Sheehan said in past budgets, a large part of the substitute budget for teachers was maintained in a system-wide account so there was a very small amount in the line item for each particular school. When money was expended, it would be transferred from the system-wide account to the particular school. He stated they have put approximately 90% of the total amount of substitute money in the line items at the schools and maintained a very small reserve in the system-wide account. The total amount budgeted for substitutes is the same as FY07. K. Riggert said the salaries are also in there and noted the salary reserve account is quite significant. T. Sheehan said it includes the \$512,000 to fund the new positions and salary adjustments for the unions whose contracts expire this year. In order to bargain in good faith, money needs to be put aside. He stated the total teacher substitute budget for next year is \$210,000, the same as in FY07.

K. Riggert said textbook costs are going down in several of the schools. With three kids, a lot of paper comes home and philosophically, she has a problem with only parts of textbooks being used and the kids coming home with numerous loose papers that accumulate in notebooks. She asked if there were learning books that would go along with the textbooks where everything is in one place. Dr. Rubel said at the elementary level, they have decided to minimize the loose paper in the math area and purchase the student books, which are consumables. These may be reflected in the teaching supply account.

K. Riggert asked if health insurance is still being negotiated and Dr. Genovese said they need to make an adjustment of about \$87,000. When they put the budget together, they were hoping the increase would be 12% based on the information they had and now they have a figure of 15%. She asked if there is a plan to add a new technology position. Dr. Genovese said the plan is to hire a technician to help support the staff in response time and with the new equipment and reallocation of the existing equipment.

With respect to the athletics budget, K. Riggert said the salaries are going up but the costs associated with the equipment, transportation and uniforms are being taken out and she asked how those are being accounted for. T. Sheehan said they are applying the total budget contribution to salaries and the expenses will be covered by the user fees. He said these have never been in the operating budget. They are trying to increase the district's contribution to cover salaries and this will give more stability and predictability to the athletic director so he will know exactly what expenses his user fees have to cover in a given year. He said they can now capture the total amount of the expenditure and noted this is really a \$500,000+ operation.

C. Barrett said they asked Mr. Twomey what would happen if the user fees were low and could not cover the expenses and as an example, he told the Committee they would reduce the number of games played in a season. The programs would be kept and the costs lowered.

With respect to the proposed increase of a .5 guidance counselor at the high school. C. Mills said he has had the opportunity over the years to see how that department operates and it is difficult for him to imagine how someone could do that job .5 since it is all encompassing. While it is better than nothing, he thinks adding a 1.0 would benefit the students immeasurably.

E. Navetta said she is disheartened that the educators have to justify basics like guidance and teachers and in the same conversation, discuss a JV football team. She believes football would benefit only a small minority of the students and hopes they can maintain their focus on education.

J. O'Hara said she is pleased to hear Dr. Genovese is seriously thinking about reinstating the newsletter and stated the first issue could justify the whole budget and if done in a clear way, they could get their override.

J. Allen said the handout says the agreement with Ayer may not be continued and asked for a further explanation. C. McKinney said he understands that the agreement is not just between the district and Ayer; it also has to be approved by MIAA and another organization and based on the size of the school and other participation, Mr. Twomey thinks those organizations may not ratify any cooperative agreement based on their demographic setup. C. McKinney said they are not the same as they were when they signed the agreement three years ago. J. Allen thinks they signed the agreement in 1994 and C. McKinney said it has been renewed many times.

With respect to the athletics budget, J. Simmons said a lot of details were not in the operating budget this year. While technically they may not need to be there since salaries are the only thing coming out of the operating budget, she feels they should be able to see them. She would like to know if the information will be there in the future and not something they have to go digging for. T. Sheehan said they can include in the budget process a complete statement of the total athletic budget and show where it is being funded and he has this for FY08. It was not projected out for the next several years but they can do that.

J. Simmons said she has heard complaints about the conditions of the playing fields and asked if there is money in the FY08 budget to do anything about that. T. Sheehan said there is a line item for buildings and grounds improvements, specifically fields. With respect to coaching with feedback, she said she can understand why it would work for teachers and feels it would work for students too. While she thinks it is great that teachers are getting all this help, she said it does not always seem to be getting to the kids. She stated she has a big problem with football in the budget and hopes they will give it some thought as they have more expenses to think about. She said it is a fairy tale to think they can do this without it costing them any money.

B. Erickson said she is an adjunct member of a committee that joined with the Booster Club and they are working very hard on the football program. The outline of what they are planning to do is very ambitious and projects out for quite a few years and on her first look, looked like a really good plan. She said there are a lot of good people working on this problem.

D. Nicholson, co-president of the Booster Club, said they have had a lot of discussion on how they were going to approach football since it is a lot of money for a startup sport. She said it comes down to being the biggest sport that will be able to service the most the kids, with 40 to 80 players and 20 to 25 cheerleaders. They will be able to have a marching band and AV students can do announcements of the games and it is not just a football team. They are pledging \$10,000 to the football program to be used for helmets and shoulder pads for up to 40 students. She said safety is usually on the forefront for the Club. She noted they have purchased an electric golf cart to get injured players back and forth and purchased walkie talkies that are tied into the EMS service. She stated the football group are now members of the Booster Club and everyone will be fundraising as much as they possibly can.

Booster Club President Jonathan Holmes said the actual vote was \$250 per student, up to 40 students. If only 30 students go in, it is \$7500 but if 60 go in, it is still \$10,000. Once the sport becomes part of the school system, it will be treated like all the other sports where coaches put in a requisition for items.

C. Barrett said there has been a lot of talk about a \$40,000 startup cost and she asked if the athletics budget is the total cost or if there is some other cost not listed in the budget. T. Sheehan said that number came from Mr. Twomey and Mr. Twomey had said about \$15,000 of the expenses for JV football was embedded in the expense account of the FY08 budget. Mr. Twomey had told him that there were one time startup costs of \$25,000 that were to come from fundraising. In recent conversations, Mr. Twomey has said the startup costs were \$15,000.

C. Barrett said the Booster Club contributes valuable and necessary contributions but the Committee has no idea what those contributions have been to the high school. If the Booster Club could not provide those resources, she said they really do not know the cost of the program and this makes her a bit uneasy.

D. Nicholson said they also donate to the middle school and she can get the figures from their treasurer. She noted they donate about the same amount every year. J. Holmes stated the \$10,000 is committed for startup football whenever the program gets started. Dr. Genovese said he applauds the Booster Club for their support.

L. Moscow asked if an updated athletics budget can be put on the website with the revenues and comparison to last year and T. Sheehan said he will do this.

J. O'Hara asked if the money contributed by all the parent organizations is tallied anywhere. C. McKinney said there are a number of accounts that are not in the general fund budget but they identify the other revenue sources in their quarterly reports. Taken all together, he said it is higher than the budget being proposed and it is that collective effort that makes the district what it is and it would be difficult to make up any piece of it.

T. Sheehan said they have records on the revolving funds but they do not capture any contributions from the parent organizations. They know if a PTO donates cash to the district as the money goes into a gift account and then back to the school but they have no way of knowing what those donations provided in terms of goods or services. It was asked if this could be required and Dr. Genovese said they could keep an informal ledger that supports different initiatives but it would not run through their financial system.

With respect to the Booster Club funding, J. Simmons asked if the figures shown for the next 3 fiscal years are contributions that will definitely be made toward the sports programs and D. Nicholson said the contributions are for any sports at the middle school and high school. J. Simmons said no one begrudges the school a football team but it comes down to the money and the athletic budget has been increased by over \$50,000 for the salaries, expenses have gone up \$75,000 and the user fees have gone up. It is great they want to lower the fees in the next two years but as they go down, the operating budget will go up and by FY10, the operating budget will increase by \$130,000. While it would be great to have, she said they cannot afford football right now. J. Holmes said the \$10,000 is committed even if it takes 10 years to get the program started.

F. Buzan asked about the increase in the School Committee budget by \$5,000 and T. Sheehan said this was driven by the fact that the FY07 budget was significantly less than the FY06 actual expenditures. With respect to the increase in computers, he asked if the older computers will be used in a specific way or if these are specifically for replacement with no increase in number. Dr. Genovese said there will be the refurbishing and reallocation of existing computers that may have an extended use at various grade levels depending on the power of the machines to support teaching and learning. He distributed a chart that takes a first look at how new machines would be allocated and how older machines would be reallocated.

C. Barrett asked if equitable access will be achieved for every school in the first year and Dr. Genovese said yes, for the most part, and that is the goal. The allocation and reallocation is intended to address the issue of the schools, classrooms and programs that did not have the advantages in the system. G. Babin said the reason for the reallocation is centered on trying to solve the issues of inequity. He said there is quite a disparity with operating systems in the schools as well as in some of the labs. He said all the labs will be smoothed out with this plan and many of the 10 year old machines will be replaced. There is a need at Prescott to have the same interfaces and they want to upgrade the entire lab at MSS and Swallow Union. C. Barrett asked if the \$20,000 increase for infrastructure is related to the library computer and software and T. Sheehan said it is not specific to any one particular piece of technology; it just reflects they have different levels of infrastructure in different places.

F. O'Connell said he echoes the comments made about the athletic budget. He said they are in the situation where they have to replace 4 year old computers that they had not expected, or adequately planned for five years ago. He said he does not want to get into a situation where they start a football program and next year, or the year after, they are faced with a difficult decision because they did not fully understand what they are getting into. He would like a detailed, comprehensive plan of the athletic budget, specifically on the football program.

Dr. Funch agreed with Mr. O'Connell. He said he is comfortable with basically every other aspect of the budget but does not feel the athletic budget fits in the same sort of way and it does not seem sustainable. If they are looking for an override this year, he would hate to say they are also increasing the user fees to the highest they have ever been. He feels there are costs to the football program that are not really reflected in the budget and despite the increase, they may need more. He is concerned the athletic budget is not tight enough.

B. Erickson said it is interesting that an inordinate amount of time has been spent discussing football tonight. She believes the benefits of sports and physical ed are a very important part of their curriculum and she would like to pursue avenues to make it possible.

With respect to the capital improvements and maintenance items, F. Buzan said he did not note any money for the ventilation issues at Prescott and asked if it assumed these will be resolved by that point. T. Sheehan said there is a \$25,000 entry in the Capital Improvement Plan for FY09 for the designer phase of Prescott. He stated they are waiting to see what the FTF III will say about the building. There are only a couple of recommendations from the consulting engineers that have not been implemented and are capable of being funded within the FY08 maintenance budget.

C. McKinney thanked the administrators for staying late. Dr. Genovese said it was nice to have so many people participate.

Tonight's presentation will be available on the website.

The Public Hearing closed at 10:10 p.m. and the Committee returned to the regular business meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Smith
Recording Secretary