

**Barnet School Board Meeting Minutes - Special Budget Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 7th, 2015**  
**Barnet School**

**Members in Attendance:** Louis Bushey, Robert Farlice-Rubio, Shellie Samuels; CCSU Business Manager Pat Amsden, Principal Shawn Gonyaw

6:09pm

The meeting was called to order by Chair Shellie Samuels.

Chair Shellie Samuels reminded the board that the budget was the only item on the agenda, and then asked CCSU Business Manager Pat Amsden to begin her presentation of the latest draft of the budget.

After distributing various hard copies of the budget, the financial summary, and other related documents, Pat Amsden alerted us that the current fiscal year (FY15) was running a projected surplus of \$112,560. Pat Amsden recommended that the board use a portion of this surplus to eliminate the \$22,984 of accumulated deficit in the Food Service budget.

In the latest draft of the budget for FY16, Pat Amsden noted that although there was an increase of \$102,642, there was also an increase in revenue of \$114,632. This would result in a budget that is \$11,990 less than FY15, a decrease of 0.3%.

At this time the board began reviewing the documents and asking questions for clarity about the data presented therein.

In reference to the document "Comparative Data for Cost Effectiveness, FY2016 Report," Chair Shellie Samuels asked Pat Amsden if the newly expanded full-time Pre-K program would change the way that Pre-K students were counted, and if this would consequently cause a change to the "Equalized Pupil" number. Pat Amsden said that it most likely would not affect that number, but she would do some research to get a definitive answer. Chair Shellie Samuels stated that although the document listed the "Student/Teacher Ratio" for Barnet School at 9.11, the actual number was close to 11.

Pat Amsden advised that the board could use a portion of the FY15 surplus to lower the Town of Barnet's tax rate somewhat, but that it would be best to keep a portion available in case of unforeseen expenses or changes stemming from the upcoming audit.

Principal Shawn Gonyaw recommended that the \$14,000 one-time expense for setting up the expanded Pre-K could come from the FY15 surplus instead of from the FY16 budget. Shawn Gonyaw also added that the \$5,045 budgeted for repainting of doors and hallways could be taken from the existing Long Term Maintenance Fund, as it was done in the past, instead of being a part of the FY16 budget. Shawn Gonyaw also mentioned the status of the roof (to be determined by the architect hired by the

Superintendent Mat Forest) may necessitate using money from the Long Term Maintenance Fund.

Shellie Samuels inquired about the status of the kitchen equipment, noting that most of it was as old as the Barnet School building itself: at least 25 years old. Pat Amsden reminded the board that the State of Vermont was the recipient of a grant of which a portion was promised to CCSU and Barnet School. The amount of money was yet to be determined, but Pat Amsden said it could be used to replace aging equipment. Shawn Gonyaw said he would ask Food Service Director Annette Burrington to find out what other funds were available, and as what was most in need of replacement.

Louis Bushey commended Pat Amsden on the quality, clarity, and utility of her prepared "Barnet Proposed Budget Rationale," and asked if it could be included in the Town Report with the latest figures. Bobby Farlice-Rubio resoundingly agreed that this document contained the most salient numbers in a clear, easy-to-read format.

Pat Amsden said she would prepare the final version of the documents to be included in the Town Report, and she would present them at the Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 13th, 2015. At this point there was a bit of discussion amongst the board about the formatting for the Town Report.

Pat Amsden stated that with the inclusion of the latest reductions of the FY16 budget, now roughly \$30,000 less than FY15, it would be possible to use the remaining FY15 surplus to lower the tax rate to a level comparable to FY13. Louis Bushey cautioned that this remaining FY15 surplus could disappear in tuition costs if as little as two high school students moved into Barnet during this remaining school year. Shellie Samuels warned that lowering the tax rate with this surplus could cause the unwanted effect of making a potentially modest budget increase appear much larger in FY17.

Chair Shellie Samuels asked Shawn Gonyaw to confirm that this budget also included funding for field trips to the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, and to the Northwoods Stewardship Center. Shawn Gonyaw affirmed that these field trips were included.

A motion was made by Louis Bushey and seconded by Bobby Farlice-Rubio to authorize the use of \$22,984 from the current FY15 budget to eliminate the accumulated Food Service deficit. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approved**

A motion was made by Louis Bushey and seconded by Bobby Farlice-Rubio to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobby Farlice-Rubio, Board Clerk