

**ANDOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ANDOVER, CT 06232
Special Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, February 7, 2024
7:00 pm
Virtual Meeting Only via ZOOM for Budget**

Members Present: Celeste Willard, Brianne Lanzieri, Michael Beckwith, Steven Fuss,
Shannon Loudon, Caitlin Greenhouse

Administration: Valerie Bruneau, Superintendent
Theresa Smith, Finance Director

Others: Kirstina Frazier, Dianne Grenier, Joanne Hebert

1. Call to Order & Ground Rules

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairperson Willard. She shared the ground rules for the meeting including a hard stop at 90 minutes for all questions. This meeting is an opportunity for public questions and comments. This is the fifth meeting for the budget workshops with plans for the BOE to vote on the final version on February 14, 2024 at the regular BOE meeting.

2. Budget Meeting #5: Review of Budget DRAFT

Superintendent Bruneau presented an overview of the budget draft which is posted on the AES website. Main increases to the budget include contractual increases to certified and non-certified staff, as well as insurance increases. The EASTCONN Tech contract will no longer have a grant to pay for part of it and will increase by \$16,000. The HVAC contract will increase by \$5,000. The school bus contract will increase by 6.0%, year one of the five-year contract. The school will save some money via the loss of outplaced special education expenses at a savings of \$96,000. The total increase in the anticipated budget will be \$116,650, or a 2.67% increase over last year's budget.

In the past 4 years our school enrollment has increased by about 40 students and we expect about a 10% increase in student numbers for next year compared with this current school year.

Comparison of our operational budget increase to other local towns shows Marlborough's operational budget at a 2.69% increase, Hebron's operational budget at a 7.35% increase, and RHAM's operational budget at a 2.64% increase.

The BOE will vote on the budget on February 14th at our regular Board meeting.

AES Special BOE Meeting

February 7, 2024

Approved 3/13/24

3. Comments from the Public

- a. Joanne Hebert – Expressed thanks for the budget overview, happy to see that enrollment is going up. Will email any questions after she is able to watch the other recorded presentations.
- b. Dianne Grenier – Stated she is happy the budget is boring which is good and that she knows a lot of work went in to keep it under a 3% increase. She wonders how it would be possible to get more town feedback and involvement.

4. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Caitlin Greenhouse, AES BOE Secretary