

Thornton School Board
Budget Hearing Minutes
Monday, February 1, 2010

School Board present: Scot Woolfenden, Melinda Johnston, Giff Kriebel, Barry VanDeMoere
Administration present: SAU 48 Assistant Superintendent Kathy Boyle
SAU 48 Accountant Richard Petrin
Principal Jonathan Bownes
Public present: 18 townspeople

The Budget Hearing was called to order at 6:45 p.m.

Principal Bownes reviewed the operating budget. This budget includes preschool students (starting at age 2) through students in eighth grade.

Mr. Bownes presented a summary of school spending and Revenue Tax impact. Changes in the on-going budget, debt service for new construction, and the operating impact of the building addition equal an increase of \$127,467 plus a reduction in Revenues equal to \$8,331 equals a total increase of \$135,798. This amounts to \$.38/per thousand tax rate impact.

Mr. Bownes then reviewed major expense components. Wages have increased 2.29%, benefits for employees have increased 2.47%, professional contracted services have increased 8.9%, building and grounds have increased 12.68%, SAU support costs have increased 4.10%, transportation costs have increased 6.09%, and all other expenses have decreased 1.09%.

Enrollment numbers were reviewed. Projected enrollment for 2010-11 is 206 students.

The teaching staff will be reduced by 1 full time teacher. A .5 special education aide will be hired to meet individual student needs and the custodial staff will increase from 2.375 to 2.6 to address the increase in size in the building if the building project passes.

Mr. Bownes reported health, dental, and retirement expenses have increased and the operating building expenses have increased due to repairs on the HVAC system, generator maintenance, boilers, crash bars and new stair treads. Transportation has also increased.

State requirements for class sizes were reviewed; K-2 should have 20 or less, grades 3-5 should have 25 or less, and grades 6-8 should have 30 or less.

Discussion ended and the Hearing adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A Tyler
Board Secretary