

Moultonborough
2018-2019 School Budget
Recommendations and Comments



Advisory Budget Committee

Monday, February 5, 2018

February 5, 2018

To the Members of the School Board, Superintendent
Moultonborough School District
Moultonborough, New Hampshire 03254

Moultonborough's Advisory Budget Committee (ABC), established in July 2008, is an appointed volunteer body whose mission is to provide the community and governing bodies with independent review and objective analysis of the annual budget. The Committee completed its comprehensive review of the 2018-2019 Budget.

We understand that current Administration continues proactive long-term strategic planning. We strongly support these ongoing efforts. It is critical that the community continue to support the process of supporting the incoming superintendent to allow Moultonborough to continue to provide excellent educational opportunities for all children in a cost effective and challenging environment. We commend the forward thinking of Administration for addressing the future before it becomes an issue.

Budget Summary:

The proposed School Operating Budget for 2018-2019 represents \$13,327,926 compared to \$14,121,679 for the prior year 2017-2018. The 2017-18 Operating Budget included approximately \$ 976,336 of principal and interest payments related to the school bond, which was retired at the close of 2017. On a comparable basis, excluding the \$976,336 of bond related expenditures from the 2017-2018 budget; the year over year increase in operating expense represents \$181,983 or an increase of 1.4 %.

Observations & Comments:

The Administration is proactively addressing the changing needs of the community. The ABC committee would like to recognize FY18-19 budget reflects the changing student needs within our district in the following areas:

- ABC supports the addition of a full-time Administrator at the Middle School level targeting the increased opportunities for the 5th through 8th grade students.
- Moultonborough has been challenged with welcoming students and families where English is not the primary language. The Administration has reallocated funding to support the education to these children in the form of bilingual instruction and materials.
- The District has realigned dollars in support of a full-time school social worker to support both students and families in need in this ever-changing world. Studies have shown if children receive support at an early age they become well-adjusted and productive members of the community.

- ABC would like to note that for the first time in recent history that Moultonborough's percent of students receiving Free and Reduced lunch is now above the state average.
- The District has carefully realigned the allocation and resources to match the needs of students requiring increased services. Part of this allocation is to provide support on a daily basis and to outsource targeted services where appropriate enabling the funding to be distributed equitably.
- The curriculum coordinator has been increased from 80% to 100% for the 2018-2019 school year to enable the District to meet the requirements of competencies standards and to bring the District focus on social studies and science while maintaining the level for English and Math.
- Vocational studies are on the increase; the ABC continues to support additional funding for this line item.
- The District is implementing a half-day preschool program to include four year olds. The anticipated participation will be close to 12 students, which will minimally affect the budget with the addition of an assistant.
- The ABC would like to recognize the efforts put forth by the Town and School District to hire and share the expertise of a Human Resource Professional.
- The School continues to work with the Town Recreation Department to provide facility use for the children and families of our community.

Reserves:

- The District maintains a Special Reserve Fund for buildings and grounds projects. The balance in this fund as of June 30, 2017 represented \$447,906. The ABC believes the balance in this fund to be adequate to cover ongoing needs.
- The District maintains a Health Self Insurance Fund. The balance in this fund at June 30, 2017 was \$1,131,099. Currently this reserve is being utilized to offset a portion of the District's rising health costs. The ABC believes this is an appropriate and effective use of "excess dollars" that may reside in this fund. At some point in the future, the District will be looking to absorb this cost in the general operating budget. The committee does not want the taxpayer to lose sight of the potential future budget impact of this practice.
- The District maintains a reserve for unanticipated special education costs. As the School District is on a June 30 fiscal year end, the budgets are actually prepared 18 months in advance of current spending. It is difficult for the Administration to anticipate the specialized education needs and potential special education enrollment that far in advance. At June 30, 2017 the balance in this reserve was \$391,709.
- In addition, the District maintains a contingency reserve of \$200,000

Conclusion:

The ABC would like to THANK Sue Noyes and Kay Peranelli for all their years of service. We would like to acknowledge the endless hours of work and dedication to the Moultonborough School District. Because of their progressive thinking, the District has moved forward in providing a world-class education to the students of our Community. We wish both Sue and Kay many hours of relaxation as they begin the next phase of their life.

The ABC looks forward to working with the incoming Superintendent and Business Administrator and are optimistic they will continue to move the District forward in the same direction.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Bergquist, Chair – ABC

Moultonborough Advisory Budget committee

Members:	Amanda Bergquist	(Member at large)
	Cody Gray	(Member at Large)
	John Temple	(Member at Large)
	Linda Murray	(Alternate at Large)
	Jean Beadle	(Select Board Representative)
	Kathy Garry	(School Board Representative)