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portation contract was for five years and that the First Student bid was the lowest bid received last year.

Under Line 2900, Support Services – Other Wage Pool (support staff), Charlie McCrave stated the support staff had received a raise of one percent in 2010. The wage pool represented an overall raise of two percent for the support staff in 2011 but could be distributed as needed. Entry salary for support staff at AE/MS is between eight and nine dollars. Many of the support staff are trained at AE/MS and then move to support staff positions at Merrimack Valley High School with an increase in pay.

There was no discussion regarding Line 4200, Site Improvement through Line 5252, Transfer to Tuition Trust Fund.

Under Lines 5221, Food Service – Federal/State and 5222, Federal Projects, Kent Armstrong stated the amounts listed under these two line items were the amounts expected and historically, the amount expected and the amount received has matched. The Andover School District would not be obligated to make up any difference but could find another revenue source.

Discussion of Article VI began with Howard Wilson, the lead petitioner. Howard acknowledged the amount of work involved in the budget process but asked the voters to hold the line on the budget and implement the ten percent, across-the-board, cut. Kent Armstrong presented a power point presentation regarding mandated and controllable expenses in the 2011 school budget. Fifty-five percent of the 2011 school budget is mandated education expense. Three quarters of the remaining forty-four percent of the budget (\$1,924,884) is the Regular Education budget. The 2011 school budget has no built-in reserve for contingencies and there is the potential for a twenty-five percent increase just in the oil budget. Cutting ten percent of the regular education budget would basically destroy the school. Increased cuts in the budget would cause more educational problems within the student body, thus increasing the demand for more special educational services. Dr. Martin, AE/MS Superintendent,

stated that the school district would not know the impact of the expected reduction in the state obligation for municipal retirement benefits until the state has made its decision. He stated the district would have to work with the budget, the Andover Budget Committee, and perhaps hold a special meeting once a dollar amount has been determined. The state's deadline for passing its budget is June 30, 2011. School state aid is listed under the Adequate Education Grant as well as the School Building Aid and Catastrophic Aid and is generated through the statewide property tax.

Ed Hiller moved to accept Article IV with a budget of Four Million, Three Hundred Seventeen Thousand, Five Hundred Seventy Eight Dollars (\$4,317,578). The motion was adopted.

Howard Wilson moved to accept Article VI. The motion was defeated.

Article V: To see if the School District will approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Andover School Board and the Andover Education Association, which calls for the following estimated increases in salaries and benefits:

2011-2012	\$0
2012-2013	\$28,949

Note: Pursuant to RSA 273-A:12, if approved, the terms of this collective bargaining agreement, including the pay plan, but excluding cost of living increases, will continue in force and effect until a new agreement is executed.

Katie Keyser, Andover School Board member explained that the repeal of the RSA cited in the note above was awaiting Governor Lynch's signature; therefore, the note would no longer be applicable. She explained that the first year of the proposed contract contains no cost of living increases or step increases. The second year of the proposed contract contains only step increases, no cost of living increases. The other changes in the proposed contract are language clarifications. Moderator Becker reminded the meeting that the warrant article was for a two-year contract; the length of the contract could not be modified at this time.

The article was adopted.

Article VII: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Howard Wilson stated that a public hearing was scheduled for March 4, 2011, to review the definition of an adequate education.

Moderator Becker declared the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Editor's Note: Appendix One of the official minutes contains "All Public Speakers and Stated Opinions." For space reasons, and because many of the stated opinions have already appeared in last month's Beacon article, the official appendix is not included here.

Organizational Meeting

March 15

Board members present: Don Gould, Charlie McCrave, Erik Anderson, Kent Armstrong, and Katie Keyser

Administrators present: Mike Martin, Chris Barry, Robin Heins, Kathleen Boucher, Jane Slayton and Julie Gaudette.

Public present: Tina Cotton and Michelle Keezer

Election of Chairperson: Don Gould was elected unanimously.

Election of Vice Chair: Charlie McCrave was elected unanimously.

Appointment of Deputy Treasurer: Dennis Fenton was appointed unanimously.

Board Chairperson's Report: Chairman Gould thanked the people of the town for the positive outcome at annual meeting. He also mentioned having attended the Merrimack Valley

annual meeting as well as a new charter school being considered. Andover students would be able to access this program.

Principal's Report: Jane Slayton reviewed her report. Kent asked about utilizing the extra minutes we attend school on a daily basis to make up for snow days. Discussion ensued. Issue will be discussed at next meeting. The Board supported the recommended kindergarten and 8th grade graduation dates.

Good News: Bill Preble's new book cited AE/MS.

Old Business

2010-2011 Budget Status: Projected fund balance may be around \$80,000, depending on any money the Board elects to reserve. This amount is lower than in previous years primarily due to increased special education expenses and a very tightly-budgeted high school tuition line for regular education.

Curriculum Comparison: Chris Barry provided information on the state curriculum requirements for elementary and middle schools. There was some discussion about sharing teachers with other MV schools and possibly consolidating some services.

Policies: The Board accepted policy IHBAAA unanimously. Administration continues to work on transportation and building use policies.

2011-2012 Calendar: The Board See School Board on page 14

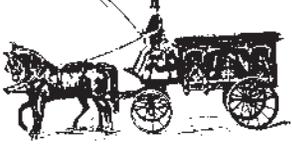
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