

**East Lyme Board of Education  
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes  
May 26, 2009  
Central Office**

**In attendance:** Mary Broderick, Melissa Ford, Tim Hagen Committee Chair, Kevin Seery, Nancy Burdick, Karen Costello, Paul Freeman, Don Meltabarger, Paul Smotas, John Sullivan

**Excused:** Marlene Nickerson

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Agenda Item 1.** FY 09 Budget Status Summary

Dr. Smotas updated the committee on the overall status of the 2008/2009 budget and reported that there were no new significant findings or changes. The estimated FY09 budget balance at 06/30/09 is \$195,000, and Dr. Smotas provided a summary of the accounts with either surpluses or deficits. One key point is that a surplus of \$300,000 in the teachers salary account was obtained from the breakage in hiring 29 new replacement teachers this year. For 2009/2010, we do not expect to have any where near as large of a surplus due to reductions in staffing levels. The committee was reminded that a virtual budget freeze has been in effect during much of the year and that several purchase orders have been submitted to Central Office for text books and replenishment of needed supplies. Dr. Smotas said that he would inform the Board of any major expenditure for the remaining year.

**Agenda Item 2.** Continued 2009/2010 Budget Deliberations

The Town budget referendum was passed on May 22, and the Ad/Staff Team met on the following Tuesday for final review of the teaching staff reductions for next year. The total number of reductions remains at 7 FTEs and Dr. Smotas and Dr. Freeman will be meeting with the teacher bargaining unit later this week. The goal is to finalize the staffing positions by the end of the week such that communication may occur as quickly as possible. The Budget Committee commended the Ad/Staff Team for their rapid follow-up in bringing the teacher staffing plan to closure. At the last Budget Committee meeting, Dr. Smotas reported that there may be savings in bus transportation for next year. He informed the committee today that they have concluded that 2 buses can be eliminated for a total annual savings of \$70,000. The committee discussed the timing for bringing the 2009/2010 budget recommendations to the full Board and concluded that the Board should be able to adopt its final budget at the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The Committee briefly discussed timing and process for reviewing Capital planning in concert with the Town. The Committee agreed that this should be a standing agenda item for the Budget Committee and that in September along with Building & Grounds Committee, a Capital Plan should be updated and presented to the Board of Education for review.

The committee was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tim Hagen  
Budget Committee Chair