

**ANDOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ANDOVER, CT 06232
Special Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, January 31, 2024
7:00 pm
Virtual Meeting Only via ZOOM for Budget**

Members Present: Celeste Willard, Gerald Cremé, Brianne Lanzieri, Michael Beckwith, Steven Fuss, Shannon Louden, Caitlin Greenhouse

Administration: Valerie Bruneau, Superintendent
Taylor Parker, Principal
Theresa Smith, Finance Director

1. Call to Order & Ground Rules

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairperson C. Willard. She shared the ground rules for the meeting including a hard stop at 90 minutes with all topics as adhered to on the agenda. There will be an opportunity for public comment at the end of Superintendent Bruneau's presentation. This is the fourth 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 Building Seminar 4 - Focus Topics: Facilities, Maintenance & Other

Superintendent Bruneau presented a slide show of about 12 slides to address a review of the previous 3 budget seminars (total increase of \$95,650 so far) and an overview of the current facilities, maintenance and other service contracts/fees. Food service fees will stay the same. 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 budgeted fees for oil, propane, gas and diesel will roughly stay the same. The total increase in the anticipated budget will be \$116,650, or a 2.75% increase over last year's budget. Members of the Board asked several clarifying questions, most notably about the cost/amount of oil.

To answer an emailed question from a town resident, enrollment numbers for kindergarten will roughly stay the same and still require 2 classrooms for next year. In the past 5 years, our school enrollment has grown from 191 to 217 students.

Superintendent Bruneau will post the finalized budget in the agenda/recordings section of the AES Board pages by this coming Monday, February 5th. We will have a final meeting for Public question and answer on February 7th via ZOOM meeting. The BOE will vote on the budget on February 14th at our regular Board meeting.

3. Comments from the Public – None.

4. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Caitlin Greenhouse, AES BOE Secretary**