

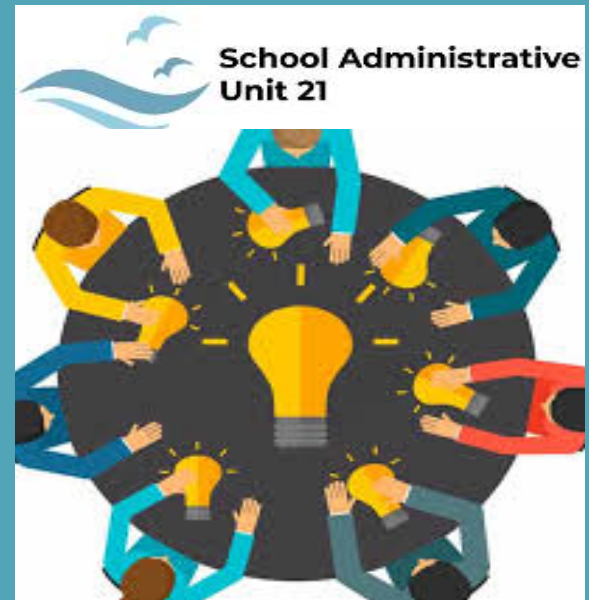
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NHSBA: School District Budgeting

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SAU #21 serves the communities of Hampton Falls, North Hampton, Seabrook, South Hampton, and Winnacunnet Cooperative School Districts.

The collaborative SAU organizational model provides an efficient operation that benefits all stakeholders by improving services, utilizing quantity of scale, and increasing cost-effectiveness – while embracing individual school district identity and autonomy.



Why is budgeting important?

- Reflection of your community's values and priorities
 - Tax-base
 - Demographics

- New Hampshire funding model
 - Local control
 - Funding Equity
 - Student Equity
 - Competition

Budgeting Best Practices



- Budget approval is predicated on the community's trust in the school board and school administration
 - Develop relationships
 - Meet with disparate stakeholders and groups
 - Provide open forums for feedback and discussion
 - Proactively disseminate school and budget information
 - Don't hold preconceived assumptions
 - Listen!

Budgeting Best Practices



- Relationships, communication, and trust are key. But, how do you develop those competencies through the budget process? (part 1)
 - Connect what you are asking for in the budget with school goals and desired outcomes
 - School Improvement Plan
 - Provide detailed narrative with justification. Why?
 - But, also remember to offer a high-level budget summary that is digestible to disparate audiences

Budgeting Best Practices



- Relationships, communication, and trust are key. But, how do you develop those competencies through the budget process? (part 2)
 - Establish up-front long-term planning (approved by the board)
 - Capital improvement plan (CIP)
 - Technology plan
 - Facilities plan
 - Communications plan
 - HVAC and roof replacement plans
 - 'Other' project plans (i.e. auditorium improvement plan)

Budgeting Best Practices



- Relationships, communication, and trust are key. But, how do you develop those competencies through the budget process? (part 3)
 - Zero-based budget
 - Show your analysis and explain the rationale
 - Staffing analysis
 - Cost of living adjustment benchmarked to CPI
 - Salary compensation analysis
 - Enrollment / Class size analysis
 - What are the primary budget drivers?

Budgeting Best Practices



- How do you convey that the school is utilizing taxpayer monies in a fiscally responsible manner? (part 1)
 - Understand your budget
 - Find your budget mouthpiece
 - Talk to your neighbors (remember to abide by electioneering law)
 - Make all budget information, data, analysis and justification available and accessible
 - Budget summary video
 - Website, Facebook, Twitter
 - Public Relations firm

Budgeting Best Practices



- How do you convey that the school is utilizing taxpayer monies in a fiscally responsible manner? (part 2)
 - Continue the conversation after the budget has passed at ballot
 - Update the school board, budget committee, and community on progress and unanticipated changes

Summary

- Fostering stakeholder relationships and open communication is integral to effective budgeting
- Not all groups will agree with all items in the budget, however, it is our responsibility to ensure our communities understand the budget, rationale, and what the school hopes to accomplish
- Providing the requisite analysis, data, and justification – with goals and metrics – in easily digestible formats across multiple platforms is paramount to the goal of transparency

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Thank you!

Please feel free to reach out to me
for any questions or discussion:

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