

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 28, 2016

A meeting of the Budget Review Committee was held Monday, November 28, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Alderman Richard A. Dowd, Chair, presided.

Members of Committee present: Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire, Vice Chair
Alderman-at-Large Brian S. McCarthy
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien
Alderman Sean M. McGuinness
Alderman David Schoneman
Alderman Ken Siegel

Also in Attendance: Alderman Don LeBrun
Alderman Benjamin M. Clemons

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Gary Hoffman, 18 Harper Avenue

I would like to speak on R-16-077 regarding the new teacher's contract. The raises that were agreed upon in this deal were fairly modest, it was \$750 and there were no step increases. That amounts to 1% for top of the scale teachers, for the average teacher which last I checked is about \$59,000 is more like 1.3%. It complies with the spending cap and I think it's a reasonable contract. I don't know how many more years we can continue looking at not giving teachers steps because if you look at some of the historical data things are changing. As a teacher, some of the people in the mid-career level are starting to leave. If you were to adjust for inflation your mid-career veteran's which used to be 8 years in this city; in 1991 that 8 year veteran earned about \$60,000 be adjusted for inflation back in 1992 and all throughout the 90's it was over \$50,000 and for much of the 2000's. Right now we are about \$47,000 and that's a significant decrease and that's with the bachelor's degree. I hope we will move that salary schedule a little bit. I think we are doing okay on the top of the scale and our beginning salary is pretty competitive but we need to figure out a way to move that salary schedule.

Mr. Fred Teeboom, 24 Cheyenne Drive

I am here to talk about O-16-011. I've been here about 4 times to talk about the charter schools. It's about giving the kids a break and the administration a break of less than \$200,000 in tax revenues. If you look at the numbers that I provided last time I appeared and it's all in the minutes, I was incorrect that there are more Nashua kids enrolled in charter schools. I had the number of 464 and the actual number is 491. There are 263 Nashua students in ASD out of an enrollment of 525. There are 127 Nashua kids in the Micro Society charter school out of an enrollment of 151 and both of these charter schools are in the City of Nashua. For those kids you have to provide transportation. The Gate City which is the third largest charter schools in Merrimack are trying to get to Nashua. There are 173 kids' total and 101 kids from Nashua. If you look at that it's anywhere from 50% to 84% of the kids in these schools reside in Nashua. In total if you look at 491 it's about 4% of the total population of the school district is close to 11,000 or 12,000, only 4% goes to charter schools. The benefits are enormous. I went through the savings the last time and I won't go into that detail again because I was off on the count by about 30 kids. The savings of not having to put these in the Nashua School District but in an independent public school district, the savings is \$3.3 million. These are Nashua students who would have to go back to the Nashua district if they couldn't go to a charter school. I heard Alderman McCarthy say you can sprinkle 491 all around the district but that wouldn't give them the education that they are getting. Mostly in the ASD case they are doing STEM work which is the most critical need we

have in the United States. We don't need more lawyers but we need a lot more engineers. \$3.3 million then subtract from that the cost of transportation which I obtained from the school district which I am told is \$160,000 to transport 491 kids. I mentioned earlier that the loss of revenue turns out to be \$148,000 and this is a bit high actually because we tax at a rate of 2.5% here and that means that these kids are occupying \$7 million worth of space and I'm not sure that kind of space is as expensive as that. ASD is rated number one in the state and number 38 in the entire United States. Nashua High School North, some of these kids go there because they are looking for a better education, not everybody goes to these charter schools. Both of my grandchildren went but they moved them back to the Nashua Public School District. Why? Well, one of them felt that he didn't want to get into math and science and the other felt he wanted to get a broader education. There is a waiting list for these schools. Nashua High School North and I see the superintendent is here. Nashua High School North and Nashua High School South in terms of NECAP perform in the bottom 25% of the 82 schools in the State of New Hampshire. Nashua High School North is rated #62 out of 82 and Nashua High School South is rated #59 out of 82. Who would possibly be against this? There's only one answer, the teacher's union. They claim it takes money away from the school district and there is no evidence of that. This charter school money, the rate of \$5,600 per kid, \$3.3 million comes out of state taxes. They would say that they also want that money to go to the Nashua school district. If it went to the Nashua school district then these 491 kids would also have to go back to the Nashua school district. It makes no sense because there is no evidence that this costs money. If you look at the teacher's salary that's probably one of the reasons why the unions are against this. The resolution shows you what the average teacher's salary is before benefits. It's about \$60,000 per year. ASD's average salary is \$40,000 and the Micro Society is also \$40,000 and the Gate City is \$37,000. It's 1/3 less than the salaries that teachers get in the Nashua school district and they are still putting in all the extra time and they are not unionized. That's what the unions hate. Benefits, the benefits at the school district are really good and you don't get these benefits and pensions and health coverage in the charter schools. Last time I appeared before the full Board and I started asking who took union contributions. Alderman McCarthy said are you asking a question or for a motivation. For a citizen to question the motivation of an elected official is the highest form of political speech. If I see those who voted against this ordinance; Alderman McCarthy voted against this, he took \$500 in contributions from the Nashua's Teachers Union. Alderman O'Brien took \$500 from the Nashua Teachers Union in the last election.

Alderman O'Brien

Mr. Chair, are these accusations legitimate to be made?

Chairman Dowd

I think they are matters of public record.

Alderman McCarthy

Point of personal privilege. I have no objection to having my motives questioned but having them presupposed by someone else who has no idea what the thought process is that I used to reach a decision is entirely another thing. I have opinions on charter schools and they have nothing to do with whether or not the teacher's union has ever supported me. I believe the teacher's union has supported me because of the positions that I have taken on education based on what I think is best for the City of Nashua. If Mr. Teeboom wants to question that, those are my motivations, Mr. Teeboom, please don't try to assert that they are something else than what they are.

Chairman Dowd

So you can mention if someone received a donation from the teacher's union but please don't make assertions as to their motivations on voting because of it.

Mr. Teeboom

You can check with the city attorney but a citizen to question the motivation of an elected official is the highest form of political speech. It's done all of the time and it's necessary to be done.

Chairman Dowd

But you are making speculations and assumptions, not facts.

Mr. Teeboom

I am stating these two facts; one is who voted no and two, who took political contributions. Alderman McCarthy voted no and took a \$500 contribution, that's a fact and Alderman O'Brien voted no and took a \$500 contribution and that's a fact. Alderman Wilshire took a \$500 contribution from the Nashua Teacher's Union and voted no and that is a fact. Alderman Clemons took a \$250 contribution and voted no and that is a fact. Alderman Lopez voted no and he did not take any contribution. Alderman Dowd never filed your final statements and I checked with the City Clerk and she is going to ask you to file your expense report.

Chairman Dowd

I already filed it and it's zero.

Mr. Teeboom

Zero or not it has to be filed.

Chairman Dowd

Please move on, we don't want to have a debate on this.

Mr. Teeboom

Alderman Deane, Alderman Cookson, Alderman Moriarty, Alderman McGuinness, Alderman Schoneman, Alderman LeBrun and Alderman Siegel all voted yes in support and none of them took a penny from the teacher's union. You can draw your own conclusions.

Mr. Adam Marcoux, President, Nashua Teacher's Union

I feel obligated to speak after the first speaker because there are some inaccuracies. First of all, the Nashua Teacher's Union does not support political candidates. The Committee on Political Education, which is not the Nashua Teacher's Union, which is a branch separate and our funds do not come from union dues collected by our members, they come from donations from our members who choose to support and are not from the union. Our chair is sitting right here and she is not the president of the teacher's union. We support those candidates because they support education in this city which some people in this room do not. Talking about charter schools, kids can go to school where they want but when we talk about public schools and charter schools you are comparing apples and oranges. If you want to compare apples we can be McIntosh and they can be Granny Smith; they are still different, there is no cost savings. We still pay the City of Nashua and the school district for special education coverages which is less than 1% of those students who are special education. Bussing is still something that the school district is responsible for those students and when you look at charter schools and their free and reduced lunch at 1% and the City of Nashua at almost 50% you are talking about a significant difference in clientele. We don't get to cherry pick who comes into our schools. The charter schools will tell you that they don't but I disagree. If you are a behavior problem then

you are coming back to one of our schools. If you are a behavior problem in my classroom, suck it Mr. Marcoux, deal with it, it's your job. They like to ignore that part. The other problem I have is with ranking the two of our high schools against everyone else's is when you have half of your junior class not take the Smarter Balance, A) that should send a message to policy makers about these tests that you subject these kids to every year and those count as zeros so if you put a zero into the average, do the math, it doesn't work out the way it should. The other point about these Smarter Balance testing that was brought up when you have a non-verbal student whose IQ is in the mid-80's who doesn't speak, who still has to take the Smarter Balance test, does that make any sense to you? Those scores, right or wrong, count against us and I'm not trying to segregate one population of our students against the other but you have to look at the facts. Those three charter schools don't have the non-verbal, 80 IQ kid in their classrooms and we still work hard for them every day. It's not fact everything that was said up here about comparing our schools and the three charter schools. I am so tired of hearing about Smarter Balance. You are talking about 1 data point. Does this city operate on one data point or do you go out and get bids to do the bridges and the sidewalks? When it comes to our school district it's one data point every time. My son's Smarter Balance scores went in the trash when they came home because that doesn't tell me what he can do, what I know he can do is from day 1 to day 180. That's what we can see. You don't see the growth of the kid that came in on a 1st grade reading level in 5th grade and left on a 3rd grade reading level because on their stupid little chart that we get it still shows up in red that he didn't make enough progress. Guess what, we are doing jumping jacks because that kid made two years of growth but no one sees it on the chart. Finally, I will speak on behalf of the contract that was negotiated in good faith with the Board of Education in support, I will tell you that it passed my membership by 17 votes and that's not a lot. We are asked to do more with less and that's the fact and we do it every day because it's our job and we knew what we were getting into but with the change in this climate and in this city we need the support of the Board of Aldermen and the Board of Education in this city to do our job and we are not getting that support. I hope this is the first of many conversations with the Board of Aldermen and the Board of Education and the teachers of our city to help our city move forward.

Mr. Howard Coffman, Member of the Board of Education

I was on the negotiation team that negotiated the teacher's union contract and I want to say that we were thoughtful and respectful and we at all times tried to stay within the limit of the spending cap which we are pretty close. We do have a small liability for next year but without that we were not going to get the contract passed. During the negotiations we went through an impasse and mediation and this is my first year on the Board. It was a creative and constructive process. When we got to our last day of discussions the mediator took time to tell us that if this goes to arbitration you guys are in trouble because the fact is there were other union increases in the city which were much larger than what we were able to offer the teachers given our budget constraints and he said that if that arbitrator would be looking at that and seeing what the teachers were offered and we would have some real issues trying to resolve those. We tried to do our part in maintaining the cost structures that we were given and we did do a good job and I ask you to pass the contract as presented. Our budget going forward is coming up soon.

Chairman Dowd

The Mayor is here and would like to present a few facts on the Safe Stations Program.

Alderman Siegel

We have certain things that may come off the table and I believe the Mayor's presence may be germane.

Mayor Donchess

Such as?

Alderman Siegel

The waterways legislation potentially, I'd hate to do that without you present.

Chairman Dowd

Just FYI on that particular legislation we are going to make a motion to table it because it's going to have to have a public hearing in January and then we will come back after the public hearing and it is due for any action until the end of February so there is no constraint.

Alderman Siegel

Mr. Chairman, I was not talking about the expendable trust fund change in purpose. There is another piece of legislation pending before the committee that's been tabled for quite some time creating an expendable trust fund and the money that we are expected to receive from Clocktower. I'd like to dispose of that and I have my reasons if we decide to bring it off the table and the Mayor would be a germane participant as he is the only sponsor of the legislation.

Mayor Donchess

You have before you the resolution to transfer \$20,000 into the Safe Stations transportation purpose and I am asking you to hold that because we need to develop more information regarding the program before we decide how much or how to handle that. The purpose of it was to help the Partnership for Successful Living in the transportation costs of those reporting to the Safe Stations Program. I wanted to say overall that the program now has been in operation for 10 days, we initiated the program on November 17th and the results have been very good and I think the program is operating very successfully. We had a meeting this morning with all of the participants, the fire department, AMR, the hospitals and the Partnership of Successful Living to debrief the first 10 days and talk about where there might be improvements possible but everybody is extremely enthusiastic. I've given to each of you the reports that were generated for the first 10 days from AMR. It tells us that the number of people that reported to one of the fire stations was 13 in the first 10 days all seeking help with addiction of substance abuse and the fire department did an extremely good job in screening these people and referring them on to Harbor Homes or the Partnership for Successful Living. The average time that they had to wait before Harbor Homes showed up and the assistance comes from the Maple Street Shelter which is run by Harbor Homes, was approximately 12 minutes which is a very successful response time. In addition to those figures, a number of people have called the fire stations without actually coming in to ask about what is available. As a result of that the Partnership for Successful Living or Harbor Homes believes they have actually dealt with about 27 or 28 people in the first 10 days. Some of the people have been referred into full-time treatment programs both at Keystone Hall and Farnum and Hamstead. Some have been referred to more intensive out-patient programs and some have been counseled. Each case is different but so far this program which we modeled after what has taken place in Manchester over the last 6 months has been extremely successful and has saved lives already. In addition, as part of the report, you see the number of Narcan doses that are being administered by the fire department every month and that was already in place before Safe Stations. The number for November is nearly 30 so they are also saving lives in administering Narcan on nearly a daily basis. I told Harbor Homes and the Partnership for Successful Living that I would seek to help them cover their transportation costs, hence the resolution that is before you but because we are not sure how many people are going to be reporting and some of the different scenarios that are developing with people in different situations that do report I think rather than act quickly and try to do a lot of guess work I would like to wait for your next meeting which is a month away and have Peter Kelleher of the Partnership for Successful Living come in and talk through what has occurred in the hopes of persuading you that it is worth investing city dollars and making sure that this program continues. My purpose is to say would you hold the legislation but to report to you as I know highly interested parties because you all

have asked about this problem over the time that I have been in office, how well I think the Safe Station Program is progressing so far.

Alderman Clemons

When this is presented can we get a breakdown as to what Manchester is doing so we can compare what resources they have put into the program and if ours is a little different?

Mayor Donchess

You mean to get the similar statistics out of Manchester which could certainly be done and how much that city has put into the program?

Alderman Clemons

Yes.

Mayor Donchess

We can come up with that.

Alderman Clemons

Awesome thank you.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SIEGEL TO GO OUT OF ORDER FROM THE PRINTED AGENDA
MOTION CARRIED**

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SIEGEL TO TAKE R-16-029 FROM THE TABLE
MOTION CARRIED**

R-16-029

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess

**ESTABLISHING AN EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND FOR RIVERWALK WALKWAYS, BRIDGES
AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS AND APPROPRIATING AT LEAST \$500,000 INTO THE
EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND**

- Tabled 5/23/16

Alderman Siegel

The reason I want to take this off the table and dispose of it one way or the other is that while this legislation is pending the money that is being received in is effectively tied up and can be used for no other purpose. I believe that this legislation is unlikely to pass the full Board. It seems to me if we can dispose of this we can take that money which is the money that came from Clocktower, which right now is not earmarked for any particular purpose and we have a spending cap issue with that but if we can take that money, that might be something that we can use to help with our pension obligations which we are facing this budget season. That is money that is not out of the taxpayer's pocket but it's not money that's available for us while this legislation is still before us.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SIEGEL FOR INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT OF R-16-029

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

There are a couple of different realities that we have to deal with. Number one is that we haven't gotten the money. When I proposed this they were projecting that the...you will recall that the reason the city is getting this money is that when we receive federal grants, these were HODAG grants in 1986/1987 to support the Clocktower development. The grants were structured in such a way that we gained a, even though we put no money in, we gained a subordinate debt position for part of the money that the federal government gave us and therefore in order for Clocktower to refinance its real debt it needs our authority. They are seeking to refinance and have proposed that they give us a certain portion of it, around \$500,000 in order to sign off on the refinancing. The refinancing hasn't gone through yet so we have not yet received the money. My last inquiry was is this likely to go ahead and by when and what I have heard now is by the end of the year but I heard by the end of the fiscal year so I don't think it's clear when this money will come to us but I think it is likely that the refinancing will go forward at some point. There is some motivation that the parties have to move forward with the transaction. To some degree I think we have moved on from it in the sense that we have applied for a TAP grant to pay for this. This suggests we might do another cantilevered walkway similar to the Peddler's Daughter. We've applied for a TAP grant for that purpose and we may get that grant in which case that is the money we should use. Number two is we are coming forward with an idea to embark on the Master Planning effort, the first step being a river plan from the area of BAE down to past the Millyard. As Alderman Siegel said there have been some reservations expressed about this by some of the Aldermen and so we are trying to make positive things happen on the river but this may not be part of our long-term approach.

Chairman Dowd

To summarize would you not have it indefinitely postponed?

Mayor Donchess

I still think it would be a good idea if the money came in but on the other hand, I think the river plan and the possible tiff that could go into play there, there are other things that we could give to the Aldermen to consider and I think that would be a better way than this. If the committee that indefinite postponement in light of those facts is the way to go I would not strenuously argue with that.

Alderman McCarthy

I was generally supportive of the legislation when it came in. I understand Alderman Siegel's motivation to do this because I agree that it's not likely to ever pass so I will support indefinite postponement. That said, no matter what we do with the \$500,000 we are going to have the same problem.

Alderman Siegel

I understand that and this is one of my best examples of my issues with the actual semantics that occur with the legislation associated with the cap. Whether you are for it or against it there are certain anomalies that are undeniable and this is one them. We've got a lump of money that we expect to receive that we effectively can't put towards a purpose that we probably all would agree is necessary but we shall deal with that at the time. Let's queue it up so we can have that debate and it becomes a meaningful debate.

Mayor Donchess

I'd like to say that most people on the Board and in the city are on board with working to improve the entire

riverfront to ensure that it can be a vital part of downtown and the community as a whole. This may not be the best way to approach that but I think everyone is quite enthusiastic.

Alderman Schoneman

I think the Mayor made my point. I would definitely favor doing something for the Riverwalk downtown and would help market Nashua but this may not be the best way to do it.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-16-077

Endorsers: Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

APPROVING THE COST ITEMS OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NASHUA BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE NASHUA TEACHERS' UNION, LOCAL 1044, AFT, AFL-CIO FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2016 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2017 AND RELATED TRANSFERS

MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Wilshire

This seems like a really decent contract and from what Mr. Coffman told us the raises are minimal and losing teachers mid-career is concerning to me. I agree that we need to take a look at how we are going to deal with it. You hear people talking about scores and whether they are meaningful or not but the ones that are meaningful are the ones that show that our kids have made success in our schools and I want to make sure that's true. I would like to see us pass this contract and also meet with the Board of Education and talk about how we are going to progress in the coming years.

Chairman Dowd

Let the record show that Sandra Ziehm, Board of Education; Dr. Connie Brown, Interim Superintendent of Schools and Dan Donovan, School Financial Officer have joined us.

Ms. Sandra Ziehm, Board of Education

The teachers were not happy with this contract as it does not reflect step increases but they agreed to the compromise to keep our negotiations from impacting the classroom negatively. Teachers have not had a step increase in four of the last six years. For example, a teacher hired for the school year 2010/2011 and now having worked in Nashua for seven years is only on step 3. Our teachers are very aware that any controversy has itself down into our classrooms. I share this in an effort to assure your Board that our teachers are professional, conscientious individuals who care about their students even at their own personal cost. Their unhappiness stems from the fact that we are losing the competitive edge with those of our teachers whose salary and tenure fall in the middle of our salary schedule. In other communities there is a closer correlation

between the years of experience and the steps on the salary schedule. To give step increases this year it would have cost our district \$1,791,326 and that would not include any raises for the employees who are already at the top step. If we gave those individuals an additional 1% and it would only be 1% that would increase our cost to \$2,030,879. As you know this contract cost \$754,509 and there is also a \$251,503 that is rolled into next year and isn't expensed in the '16/'17 budget. Here in Nashua there has been years when steps were frozen resulting in the loss of step movement for staff. If teachers move to a district who has been granting steps increasing annually they are placed in a higher step resulting in a larger salary. One of our teachers transferred to the Amherst School District last year and he received a raise of \$12,785 and for a struggling young family that affects their family's quality of life. For our district it affects the quality of our educational system giving us a shortage of experienced teachers to lead the district as our more tenured teachers retire. Do we really want to be a training ground for teachers? As the second largest district in the state, the diversity that we represent is more expensive than in richer towns surrounding us. Our special education students' alone costs us \$19,091,000 annually and 44% of our students are eligible for free or reduced lunch. Additionally if you consider the spending cap as well as 80% of our budget representing salaries you will understand that it does not give our Board sufficient discretionary spending to remain competitive. The education budget is \$104,684,000 as voted by the Board of Education. Some ask the question why when spending that much money are our test scores so low. I believe the answer is that not all of that money is spent on teaching. For many of our students school is the only safe place that they know. We feed them, we cloth them, we give them their shots, their fluoride treatments, we check their eyes, we provide social workers and psychologists and drug treatments and some of our schools even have washers and dryers, we can debate whether that's good or bad but the truth is as a nation, whether consciously or unconsciously, we have been unwilling to change that pattern. Federal mandates such as special education, Common Core, Smarter Balance assessments serve only to further complicate the problem. How important is it to our communities to maintain the best possible teaching staff or for that matter to keep our classrooms small. What is the size of a best practice classroom? Does that number depend on the diversity of the classroom? Do we consider the number of individual education plans per classroom when determining an acceptable class size? When children come to school tired and hungry and emotionally unprepared to learn, does that affect our classroom learning? If you have non-English speaking students or refugees, some who have never been in a classroom, does that have an effect and finally how do our schools affect our real estate values? I do not begrudge charter schools but I would point out that for the most part they do not service the under privileged or the diversity of the public schools. It is my desire that every elected official in the City of Nashua have an understanding of the complexities of our classrooms and through that understanding a greater appreciation of the sometimes unobtainable goals our teachers face. If the classroom is too large or the diversity too great our teachers leave at the end of the day knowing that they were unable to meet the needs of every child. Could it be that this is also one of the reasons we are losing good teachers. The true joy of teaching is knowing that you have successfully reached every child. It is my hope that this Board will not only support this contract but make it a point to thank our teachers for the commitment and love they bring to our students. I personally can never thank them enough.

Chairman Dowd

Dr. Brown, do you have any comments you would like to add?

Dr. Connie Brown, Interim Superintendent

My comments have been made, thank you.

Alderman Siegel

I was able to review the contract and I think everybody involved did a very good job. I think it's unfortunate that people think that the Board of Aldermen is not supportive; I suppose historically there has been a lot animosity because of some of the things that have come through. Our job is to review and we are not always

advocates for one view or the other. We are a check and a balance. This is a fair contract and as far as performance or not performance the one thing I wish there was in the contract is a requirement for the parents to be better parents because that would help the teachers and honestly all of this talk about performance puts it on teachers as the sole arbiter of what happens in our school system and I don't think that is quite fair. One of the things that you learn when you are elected to government is the world isn't so black and white making bold statements one way or the other. It's easy to get a 140 sound byte on Twitter but that's not a solution so I appreciate the effort and the compromise that this contract clearly represents and I am going to support it.

Alderman Schoneman

I see this is a one-year contract, what will happen next year, we do this all over again?

Chairman Dowd

Yes.

Alderman O'Brien

I am going to support this and I would like the teachers to know that I do appreciate the hard work that they do. My daughter was in special education and now she is a teacher. There are success stories and I know that the teachers were required to pay more for the pension. This raise is below the cap. It's not because I accepted a contribution it's just common sense. I see the hard work these people do with our children and I thank them.

Alderman Clemons

I will be supporting this contract and I won't comment on its merits but I will say that while I understand that there was hard work done on both sides. I think it's a shame that both sides were constrained by our spending cap and I think that matters the most. We are losing good teachers because we can't pay them a decent amount of money.

Alderman Schoneman

I heard from several members of the Board of Education whose opinions I respect and they have urged me to support this which I will do. I think we have to look to the future to see how we are going to make the schools provide the value to the taxpayers. I am pleased to see that the Board of Education and the teachers were able to work within the spending cap because it's a real consideration.

Mrs. Ziehm

I wanted to comment on Mr. Siegel's comment and it is a comment that you hear often. I am speaking specifically about the parents participating more and I would disagree with that. Where I am concerned is that I believe that 50% of our students come from single parent homes are with their grandmother or cousin. We even have homeless kids. The problems that Nashua and Manchester face are totally different from anyplace else in the state and you almost have to go into the classroom to recognize it. It's taken me 11 years and I'm not sure I even have my arms around it even now.

Alderman Siegel

Let me clarify my remarks because I think you misunderstood. I didn't mean that the parents should participate in their kid's homework. I mean they shouldn't be so socially irresponsible that they are raising children in such a way that they are near dysfunctional when they come into the school system and basically

our teachers have to be more than teachers but surrogate parents and try to undo damage that's almost impossible to undo. That is what I meant.

Mrs. Ziehm

It was not my intent to correct you.

Alderman Siegel

I appreciate that, thank you.

MOTION CARRIED

R-16-081

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess

AMENDING THE PURPOSE OF THE EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND FOR OPERATING THE JACKSON MILLS DAM TO A HYDROPOWER RESERVE FUND FOR BOTH DAMS

- Public Hearing scheduled for 1/23/17 at 7:00 PM in the Aldermanic Chamber

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SIEGEL TO TABLE R-16-081 PENDING THE PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 23, 2017, AT 7:00 PM IN THE ALDERMANIC CHAMBER

MOTION CARRIED

R-16-082

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess

RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF \$20,000 FROM DEPARTMENT 194 – CONTINGENCY, ACCOUNT #70100 – GENERAL CONTINGENCY TO DEPARTMENT 109 – CIVIC & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION 56 – OUTSIDE AGENCIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDING TO HARBOR HOMES FOR THEIR ROLE IN THE SAFE STATIONS PROGRAM

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO HOLD UNTIL THE NEXT BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE
MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SIEGEL TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE O-16-011

MOTION CARRIED

O-16-011

Endorsers: Alderman Don LeBrun
Alderman Ken Siegel
Alderman David Schoneman
Alderman Tom Lopez

ADOPTING PROVISIONS FOR REDUCED TAXATION FOR CERTAIN CHARTERED PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

- Taken from the Table at Full Board level and Referred to Budget – 11/9/16

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SIEGEL TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Siegel

As a purely mechanical exercise I do not believe that this legislation will have ten votes. I believe the Mayor will veto this legislation, although I can't speak for the Mayor so I am wondering to what extent talking about this in committee will change the outcome. This was tabled at the full Board level because we were dead locked. I am in favor of this but I am a pragmatist.

Alderman Schoneman

I think there is some merit to talking about it. We do have some folks from the charter schools here tonight and I think that some of the questions that came up in the last meeting could be addressed. I would like for them to come up and talk about what their schools do. I am not trying to set up a debate between various schools. I think some of the philosophies that they represent need to be debated at some stage. This is Amy Bottomley from the Micro Society Academy and Matt Sotherton who represents the Academy for Science and Design. I don't know how many members of the Board have actually taken a tour of some of the charter schools but it may be worthwhile having a charter school representative explain a little bit about what they do and how they came into being and how this legislation might benefit them.

Alderman O'Brien

I think most of us have done our homework and are quite familiar with our school system and the charter school system. Not to cut anybody off but I would like to limit the focus because we seem to have something here that's going to effect the tax structure and that's what I would like to hear the comments related to and not so much a presentation between the two entities. I want to know what is going to happen to the bottom dollar.

Alderman Schoneman

I think the bottom line discussion is good but any time we contemplate money I think we are balancing that against value and I think it's not just dollars but dollars against what we get and I think that's the advantage of the charter schools present what they do. Maybe there are folks on this Board that have done their homework but not everyone at home has and this is a chance for the folks at home to know what we are discussing and why.

Alderman Clemons

I wasn't at the Board of Aldermen of the 9th but this originally went to the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee because it is an administrative affair so I'm not exactly sure why it was re-referred to the Budget Review Committee.

Alderman Siegel

I would suggest since Alderman McCarthy is here he would be in the best position to address that. I would say it's because it involves changing taxes and that affects the revenue of the city. It seems pretty straight forward to me.

Alderman Clemons

I looked at the meeting minutes and it was originally going to go back to the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee and then someone changed it to the Budget Review Committee but there was no explanation given.

Chairman Dowd

Since there were dollars involved they asked if I would be willing to take it into the Budget Review Committee.

Chairman Dowd

Does anyone have any objection to them giving a brief presentation?

Mr. Matt Sutherton, Academy of Science Design

I am a Board member of ASD and also the president of the New Hampshire Alliance for Public Charter Schools. My sister is a teacher and three of my five aunts are teachers and I heard a lot of animosity earlier. There is no animosity between public charter schools and public schools. We love all public schools and I am here just to answer any questions you might have.

Ms. Amy Bottomley, Director, Micro Society Academy Charter School

I've spent eighteen of my twenty year career in a traditional public school. I made the jump to a charter school because personally as an administrative I got sick and tired of telling teachers that you have to teach this on this day in this way and wanted the ability to have some more creativity in the classroom. I think that's why a lot of teachers come to the charter program because they are teaching in a way they see fit to students and meet their needs better and it's a trade-off, they take that for the pay cut. It's a free choice for students' which I think is...we are not about one size fits all education and each charter is different. You can't compare ASD and Micro Society and I'm also here to dispute some of the statistics that were given in the public earlier. I can speak for the Micro Society and we've identified 20% of our student body as free and reduced.

Chairman Dowd

Do either one of your groups own the building that you are in?

Ms. Bottomley

We do not we have a triple net lease. The city sends me the tax bill and I pay it directly. It does not pass through the hands of my landlord.

Mr. Sutherton

It's the same with ASD and I believe that we reside in about 61% of the building.

Alderman Clemons

What was your tax bill last year?

Mr. Sutherton

It was about \$79,000.

Ms. Bottomley

Ours is \$22,000.

Mr. Sutherton

When we think about this we think why is a public school being taxed. Charter schools can't afford to purchase their own buildings so they often have to lease and that's money we could be putting towards our students and teachers.

Alderman Schoneman

To address the bottom line dollar effect could be the city here is if its \$80,000 for ASD and \$20,000 for the Micro Society that's about \$100,000 in total taxes and this legislation would allow up to a 90% credit on that so approximately a little over \$90,000. We did just recommend that the teacher contract go through and I supported that and it was an additional \$688,000 we just spent. We are talking about \$90,000 as a benefit to public schools who do very well in their performance. Some people may say that test scores aren't valuable but they are a measure and they do very well at a low cost and I think that is a service to the City of Nashua. I think to give some support to them from the city in recognition that there are a lot of city students going to these schools and it would benefit them.

Chairman Dowd

I heard some costs during public comment about the amount of money it costs per child for public schools versus the charter schools. I think there is some apples and oranges there because of what has to be covered in the public schools and we have eighteen buildings and 13,000 students and I don't know how many teachers. The overhead is a lot more significant so the cost per student, if you don't look at what those numbers represent from the details you can't really make that comparison. I'd like to get an idea from the Board of Education and the superintendent what your feeling is on charter schools and the implications that this might have on your budget.

Superintendent Brown

I've spend 30 years as an educator and 20 as a superintendent and a new resident to the City of Nashua as of August. Since I arrived here one of the first things I learned was the emphasis on your frugality and how closely you watch the taxpayer dollars and how important it is to manage expenses wisely. That discussion is always very closely tied with the expenditure cap, to taxes and that people here are very considerate of the tax dollars that they have and people approach school budgets with that same sort of judicious wisdom. I was not prepared tonight to come and debate the merits of charter schools versus public schools. I think that is a conversation better held in a different venue and not in the context of a budget discussion. I think as Aldermen you would want to ask yourselves if you would want to lose tax revenue in this manner. With that being said I will defer to my colleague, Mr. Farrington, from the Board of Education.

Mr. George Farrington, Board of Education

I wasn't prepared to come here and debate the merits of charter schools versus public schools. I think this is a financial question for the Board to resolve. I don't have any negative feelings towards the charter schools whatsoever. I think we are all in the same business of trying to provide the best possible education for the kids but we just go about it differently. We have different situations and circumstances so I am not going to jump into that one.

Alderman McCarthy

I don't want to debate the merits either; I believe the charter schools are doing a great job producing students with great educations. I will also point out that a lot of that has to do with what Alderman Siegel said a few minutes ago. The fact that parents put their children in a charter school pre-identifies that student as someone

whose parents are involved heavily in their education. In my estimation it's a huge advantage to start out with. I think it's a different mechanism for providing an education that is by its very nature very likely to be successful and typically is. The question that is in front of us right now has to do with tax policy so I guess what's been presented to us several times is how much money the charter schools are saving the City of Nashua. We have 400 or so students that are not in the public school system but in the charter schools. What expenses in the districts' budget are lower because those 400 students are not there?

Superintendent Brown

We don't have many expenses that are lower, we have to keep the lights on, we have to keep the buildings heated and we have run 100 buses. Most of the students come from individual grades so you still need a teacher and support services in all of those grades irrespective of the number of students that you have in them. We do have an infrastructure that we need to maintain. Where we do have a loss is in the revenue count from the State of New Hampshire because we don't have as many students as we used to have and so there is a corresponding loss of aid because of the those loss of students.

Alderman McCarthy

So we have actually lost revenue in the state grant for education because we don't have those students. Because of the fact that there is 400 of them distributed throughout seventeen buildings and 12,000 students we really can't get rid of a teacher or close a classroom or a school or not run a bus or do any of the things that would lower a budget, correct?

Superintendent Brown

That's correct.

Alderman McCarthy

So are costs don't go down when the revenue goes down which means our costs that are derived from the local tax rate go up every time we take a student out of the public schools which means that the public is paying more for it because the state is not giving us that part of the grant but the costs do not change.

Superintendent Brown

That's correct.

Alderman McCarthy

And if we put the tax exclusion in place the taxes will go up further so I guess just from a policy perspective I just don't see...if the state put in enabling legislation in but did not mandate it. If the state wants to figure it out then the state ought to tell us how to pay for it. It's one of a great number of things this year that the state wants the communities to do but isn't willing to put the dollars behind and I guess that's the dollars and cents that make me opposed to the piece of legislation that's on the table. It will make taxes go up.

Alderman O'Brien

I agree with the previous speaker. We did hear in public comment that there was a school in Merrimack that may be interested. If that charter school comes from Merrimack and tries to fill the need in Nashua would this legislation apply to that new school? Will this be a never ending thing that's going to come up? Nobody has addressed this so I'm very concerned. How much of a need is this? Are the charter schools in our city in any financial discourse that they need a tax break from the city that would require us to put an additional tax

burden on the city? People are already paying for education in their taxes. We are already having a problem with the spending cap and this would be giving 90% back. If they are in financial difficulty and need it to survive then maybe we could look at it a little bit differently.

Chairman Dowd

You said earlier that if you had this funding that it would allow you to do additional things. Are either of the schools pending closing because of this legislation if it didn't pass?

Mr. Sutherton

Not ASD, no.

Ms. Bottomley

The Micro Society is in our second year and the way our lease is that it goes up in increments over \$200,000 within a 15-year period. We are at \$180,000 per year right now. When our federal funds run out after this year if we don't make up the \$170,000, which we are working on, then yes, we could be in trouble. We just don't know where we stand yet but this \$20,000 would help bridge the gap in our lease for a few more years to help us raise those funds.

Chairman Dowd

Personally I don't have any problems with charter schools; I think they serve a purpose. Do the students pay tuition?

Mr. Sutherton

No, that would be against the law since they are a public school.

Alderman McCarthy

Do the parents make donations?

Mr. Sutherton

At ASD, about 50% of the folks donate.

Mr. Sutherton

We have far less.

Alderman McCarthy

When this first came up and I looked at ASD's website right at the top of the front page was make sure you get \$400 donation.

Mr. Sutherton

We definitely encourage fundraising as any public school would do because we can't pay our bills on the amount that the state gives us so we are extremely frugal.

Ms. Bottomley

Micro Society really wanted to reach the struggling learner so we have a very different population than ASD. Our parents cannot afford to give to us. We tried an annual fund drive this year with a suggested donation of \$200 per students and I have 150 students and I've raised \$5,000.

Alderman McCarthy

I want both of your schools to succeed but I am pointing out that if the state wants them to succeed then the state should be figuring out how to solve this because we are asking the parents of the other students to pay for it instead. The tax savings won't get passed through, it will get absorbed by the landlord and I think you just said so you can pay your rent.

Ms. Bottomley

So we can afford to educate kids longer and make up the federal funding that we are losing is what I said.

Alderman McCarthy

But your lease cost is going to go up?

Ms. Bottomley

All of our expenses are going to go up. Yes, our lease goes up over 15 years and that's the reason it is not sustainable in our building without some kind of other break.

Alderman LeBrun

I brought this legislation forward for just a few basic reasons. One is I saw the charter schools putting out a better product than the public schools are putting out at a much lower cost and that to me was the prime reason. There is such an uneven playing field. This is about educating kids and not how much it is costing. We just passed a bargaining agreement for the teachers with so much less debate. We are not asking for anything like that here so why are we debating this for a half hour now when we passed this other agreement within a five minute period. It doesn't make sense.

Chairman Dowd

This was referred back to us from the Board to do more due diligence.

Alderman LeBrun

This was referred back, Mr. Chairman, because you requested it be referred back to the Budget Review Committee. It was not given to you, you requested it.

Chairman Dowd

Yes, after much debate at the full Board level.

Alderman LeBrun

Yes.

Chairman Dowd

You said your expenses are going up. The expenses of the public school system are going up and the way it looks right now is there is no money to pay for that. They are similar situations but the public school is at a much higher level because of the amount of money. There is a spending cap and there is only so much money at the current time.

Alderman Siegel

As far as it going right to the landlord, it's a triple net lease so they pay the taxes directly to the city. That tax offset becomes money that they then can afford to use to pay for the rent increase but not the taxes. I supported this because I felt it was an opportunity to potentially attract more charter schools and not because I want to penalize the school system. I am sensitive to the strange calculations that our state uses which is something separate that need to change. This is really, like most tax incentives, is are we going to create new charter schools with this legislation or are we going to prevent existing charter schools from failing. We found tonight that currently, right now, we do not have a situation where a charter school in this city is going to fail. We also know that there is no charter school that is going to use this legislation as a reason to move to Nashua or not move to Nashua as far as I am concerned. Again, I support this legislation but I would suggest that there is no need to act on this legislation now and I am very concerned about the loss of tax revenue. I am sensitive to the fact that you folks are doing the best you can but we are scraping for tens of thousands and now we are talking about a large amount of money here. As far as the effect on the classroom, yes, we don't have the facility change but it is not an apples to oranges comparison because we own our buildings and they don't. What that says is that we are inefficient in how we use our real estate but that's just historic. Fundamentally there are children being educated and there is a cost associated with that and that's what we are measuring. They are demonstratively doing a good job and our school system has different challenges and they are luck because parents self-select more to charter schools. I understand that you are completely open to everyone and it's very clear, I never debated that but the people that actively seek out charter schools are generally more conscience of their kids well-being and frankly there are a lot of parents out there who have children in our school system that demonstratively don't care about their kids well-being and our teachers have to clean up the mess. Since there is no economic benefit to this city and there is no economic hazard to an important component of the city right now, I don't believe that there is a compelling reason to act on this, especially in light of the budget situation we are facing. We just can't take \$90,000 and move it aside and not have any tangible economic benefit right now for it. I would like to see this stay in committee until we think there is a reason why we need it.

Alderman Wilshire

We are setting policy here and it is \$90,000 today but how are we assured that we are not setting policy for more charter schools over the next five years? This is not about ASD or the Micro Society; this is about what might come up in the future. As a taxpayer myself I'm not sure that I can support that policy.

Alderman Clemons

With all due respect to the existing charter schools, my feeling regarding them is basically that if you take out the number of students and they are picked from all over the district and put them in a charter school we still have to run the other schools and we have to do it with less money. I think the charter schools that serve Nashua do a good job but because there is this inequality in that you are taking away a sum of money from the public schools that can't be absorbed, because we still have to run everything at full capacity, you are doing everybody else who is in the public schools a disservice. You either agree with charter schools or you don't and I personally don't and that's the reason why. The thing that I have an issue with is this is \$90,000 today but if in the future someone wants to set up a charter school in Nashua, if this was passed, you are looking at a commercial property let's say in Nashua versus Hudson, Hollis or Merrimack; well now Nashua

has the advantage because you are only going to pay 10% of what the property tax was versus what those other towns have which is the full rate. You are giving an incentive for charter schools to open up in the city and I don't think that is a smart decision because it takes away from the public schools. For those reasons I do not support charter schools.

Mr. Farrington

I am not going to get into a debate about the money. I know that Alderman Siegel didn't intend it but we have a lot of very actively and engaged parents within the public school system and we have excellent students that graduate from our high school and go on to terrific schools and careers. It's just a different situation for different families and different parents. I didn't want to leave the impression to anyone who might be watching tonight that we are the second choice or the bad alternative. We have our issues there is no doubt about it but we have some very successful students in our district.

Alderman Siegel

We've always said that we want to reduce classroom size and this is a way to do that. I understand the money situation but to the extent that the metric that people should be caring about which is what is the best option to educate my child, those choices are helpful. The side effects are bad because of the way the calculations are done at the state level. That's a by-product of a bad system but the key element here is we want the best for our children, however that happens. If there were two or three charter schools that looked at Nashua and wanted to locate here well then it's time to take this off the table and pass it. We give tax incentives to developers to develop property that doesn't have long-range social implications. This is something that has absolute human capital and unfortunately part of the constraints of our public school system is that they are mandated by things that I wish could change. If you are in a situation where you are subjected to incredibly disruptive children in school which effect the learning environment, they don't have the same types of options as other alternatives have but if you are a parent and you don't want your kid to have a situation where that's causing their education to be disrupted then you would like to have a choice and that's why I am in favor of that. Again, there is no economic incentive to do anything right now.

Alderman Schoneman

I want to echo that we do like to incent businesses to come into Nashua. We took a look at the Academy for Science and Design as number one in the state and it ranked high nationally. That's a public school that puts Nashua on the map. I understand that the Micro Society is in the top ten in the state in the elementary schools. I know sometimes a small sample size doesn't tell you everything but I did hear a story from Micro Society from a student who came out of the Ledge Street School and was not doing very well. That student came in and is testing at 100% level. I think that's a service that we are providing and that it's good to incentivize these people to come in and serve our students as they do. If we get more as a result that would be great. What would be wrong with being seen as a center for excellent education nationally?

Alderman O'Brien

I wish the charter school folks well and I wish them great success. I think we are looking at this a little bit backwards. You are the life boat it seems. Everyone has commented around here that there is something wrong with our school system yet we are going to take tax dollars that could be fixing the ship and you are looking to invest into the life boat. If our regular school system is the problem then we should fix them and not worry about another venue or reinvent the wheel. My elementary and my high school both closed and it happens, they were parochial schools and I know charter schools is public but sometimes other venues don't succeed in education but it can't happen to us, we are a city and we are responsible to provide the best education. You know what would really put us on the map, if we invested more in our education then maybe people would come here and choose to live. I'm talking all race, colors and creed that we invest more in our

education. To take money away from that, the money isn't there and I can't support this.

Chairman Dowd

What are the class sizes of the charter schools?

Ms. Bottomley

Mine range from 20 in 1st grade up to 23 in 6th grade.

Mr. Sutherton

The Department of Education has that data available on-line. Across the 25 charter schools that are located in New Hampshire I believe the charter schools are slightly smaller and in high school they are slightly larger. At ASD we have some high level technical classes that may be 20 or so.

Alderman Schoneman

There was some discussion about special education and for the record I would like to hear from the charter schools what that percentage is.

Ms. Bottomley

I have 11% and 6% is 504 which is impacting conditions which is at 100% of the cost of those students and their needs are on the charter school along with ESL students.

Mr. Sutherton

We have 1 in 7 students that are on an IEP or a 504 plan. The students that are on a 504, all of their costs are provided by the charter school. Students on IEP are provided by the district.

Chairman Dowd

I have no issues with charter schools and I think they do have a place. A couple of points though, they were established without coming in first and asking for a tax break so this is something after the fact. The second thing I would be more inclined to consider supporting this if we weren't in a situation where the state has just hit us with at \$2 million bill and we are looking at catastrophic changes to our public schools, police and fire unless we do something on this Board. I would entertain a motion to table this until after we figure out what we are going to do about our current budget because we can't spare a dime.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SIEGEL TO TABLE
MOTION CARRIED**

GENERAL DISCUSSION – None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Dick Gagnon, Goffstown, NH

I work here in Nashua at Access Nashua and I'm also on the Board of Trustees for the Micro Society Academy and I just wanted to comment concerning what you said about not asking for tax rebates prior to. One of the first things that I did when we were looking at the property as come to City Hall to see if there were any tax

exemptions and I was told no. It was only one year later that the legislation came up at the State House so we had asked first just to let you know.

Mr. Fred Teeboom, 24 Cheyenne Drive

You talked about \$90,000 for 45 minutes. The teacher's union contract increased by \$880,871 with barely any debate and you are sitting here crying about the budget. If you look at the salaries, the average teacher salary in Nashua is \$60,804 but on the web site it's \$59,267. ASD's teacher salary is \$39,620, Gate City Charter School in Merrimack is \$37,000 and the Micro Society is \$40,000. If you want to start crying about the public schools start by taking a look at the teacher's salary which is way beyond the charter schools. There is endless crying about the student/teacher ratio, in Nashua it's 14 students per teacher. ASD is 18 up to 20, Gate City Charter School is 23, that's almost double what it is in Nashua. Micro Society is 23. These people know how to get along with very little. They came in here and asked you for \$90,000, you have a budget in the city of \$300 million dollars and you waste money everywhere, especially in the public school system called the Nashua School District. You denied them \$90,000. I am the author of the spending cap. If you look at the budget book page 3 of 10 you can see how it's all manipulated. \$90,000 is nothing, these people have difficulty making their bills, they just can't go out and raise the taxes. You tabled this in committee? Shame on you. One other thing, during the days of Pennichuck takeover I was opposed by the president of Pennichuck. He said Mr. Teeboom, we think you do such a fine job worrying about water in the city and we know you are running Alderman, we will give you \$1,000. A check arrived in the mail for \$1,000. Do you know who wrote that check, dirty money, so I sent it back. Not because I was for the takeover but because it was dirty money. There is absolutely great integrity in Alderman McCarthy, he is not going to be bought for \$500. I don't think Alderman Clemons is going to be bought for \$250 but the point is its money that puts a shadow over what you do. These unions, whether they call it COPE or not, it's their donation organization. Do not take that dirty money. I didn't and I don't expect you to take it.

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Alderman Siegel

I want to defend my colleagues. I don't care how much contributions anybody has taken for any reason, despite my sometimes virulent disagreements with some of my colleagues I can 100% vouch for their ethics and they may make some decisions that I may not agree with but they have nothing to do with anything other than we have a different point of view and I'm getting a little tired of that. We are very blessed in this city to have a government that tries to be responsive to the people and tries to do the right thing. We are not perfect but we are ethical.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, Alderman Siegel.

Chairman Dowd

In the last two elections I haven't had any contributions from the teachers. They gave me money because they like the way I think. I have ten members of my family that have been in education, including my daughter who is a teacher right now. I was ten years on the Board of Education and of course I support education and I take offense to comments like that from members of the public who are accusing Board members here of making decisions based on donations when they have taken donations themselves from other entities that they don't think is a conflict so quite frankly I discount that.

Alderman Schoneman

Just for clarification sake, since you brought it up, on your contributions from the teacher's union, you didn't

have a contribution from them in 2015 but in 2013?

Chairman Dowd

I would have to go look...no.

Alderman Schoneman

I believe you did, sir, you may have forgotten but I checked. You didn't have competition in 2015 but you did in 2013. I am not accusing, sir, of anything.

Chairman Dowd

Maybe I did.

Alderman LeBrun

What I got out of this conversation tonight is that there is very little interest in quality education. What I saw is more interest in inferior education and throwing money at the administration of interior education.

Chairman Dowd

I would have to totally disagree because if you took 400 students out of our current system I would bet that they could beat the scores that you are seeing, number one. Number two, this is a budget issue and has nothing to do with how schools are ranked because that is no apples to apples and anybody that has spent any time in the education system would now that.

Alderman LeBrun

I respectfully disagree, Mr. Chairman.

Alderman McCarthy

I have no interest in an inferior education and frankly, Alderman LeBrun, I am insulted by the implication of that. I stated quite clearly that I support charter schools and the way I support them may not be to your liking but it is the way I choose to do it and I think we are building a great education system here in Nashua.

Alderman LeBrun

I respectfully accept your being insulted.

Alderman O'Brien

I just want echo the words earlier from Alderman Siegel. We come here with many different purposes but our main purpose is to try to do due diligence for our constituents. It's going to hurt when you are on the losing side but it's to pick up and fight again another day for what you believe in and to act like ladies and gentlemen that we are, fathers of this city.

Alderman Wilshire

I don't believe in inferior education. All of my children went through the Nashua Public School System. I have a daughter with a JD, another who has a great job in Nashua and I have grandchildren in this school system.

There is nothing I want more for them and my constituents than a good education. I'm sorry if you missed that.

Alderman Schoneman

I don't think anyone is advocating for a poor education. I just want to remind folks that the parents of these students are Nashua parents too. They are paying taxes too and in the case of this one student who came out of the Ledge Street School who is doing so much better with that option I think is great. Some members of the School Board have told us repeatedly that Nashua tends to take very good care of the special education students and we do a very good job with some of the AP students but there is a large block in the middle that is somehow missed and I think that sometimes the charter schools take some of those folks from that middle and really help them. I think to encourage them and foster that for those families and those students is a good thing. Win or lose its tabled and we will see what happens in the future.

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHRIE TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 8:54 p.m.

Alderman Sean M. McGuinness
Committee Clerk

SAFE STATION

A Gateway to Recovery in Nashua, NH



Announced on November 17, 2016, the City of Nashua, NH began providing a service to those suffering from Substance Use Disorder (SUD) named "Safe Station". The purpose of this program is to provide a starting point to aid in the treatment and recovery from SUD.

- **Number of requests at NFR for Safe Station:** 13
- **Number of participants taken to PSL facilities:** 12
- **Number of participants taken to Hospital ED:** 1
- **Average Length of Time AMR/NFR Company "Not Available":** 11:55 minutes
- **Number of UNIQUE participants:** 13
- **Number of REPEAT entries:** 0

- **Age Range of Participants:** 19-54

- **Gender**
 - Male 7
 - Female 6

- **Participant Hometown Breakdown (BY UNIQUE PATIENT):**
 - Nashua 11
 - Hudson 1
 - Lowell, MA 1

- **Referring MFD Station Breakdown:**
 - Station 1 Amherst St 3
 - Station 2 Lake St 1
 - Station 3 Spit Brook Rd 0
 - Station 4 E. Hollis St 9
 - Station 5 Airport 0
 - Station 6 Conant Rd 0

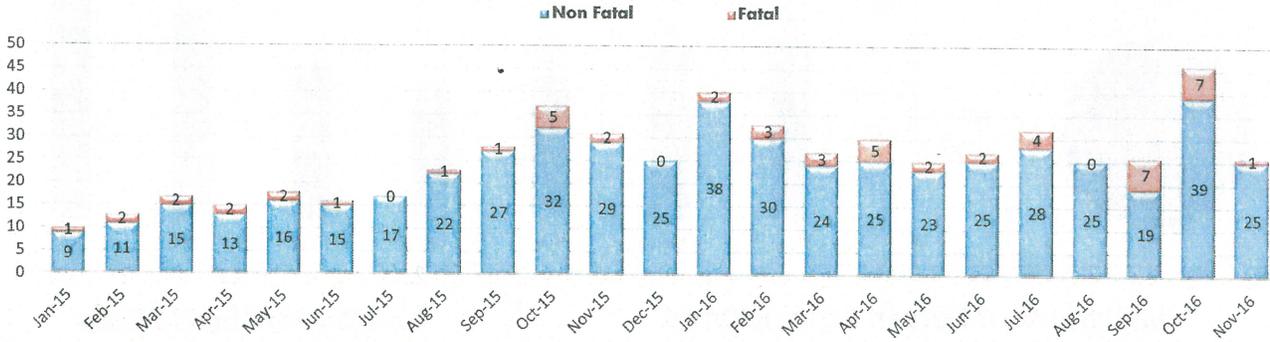
- **Number of participants seen for ODs prior to seeking SS Help:** 1

Nashua Summary

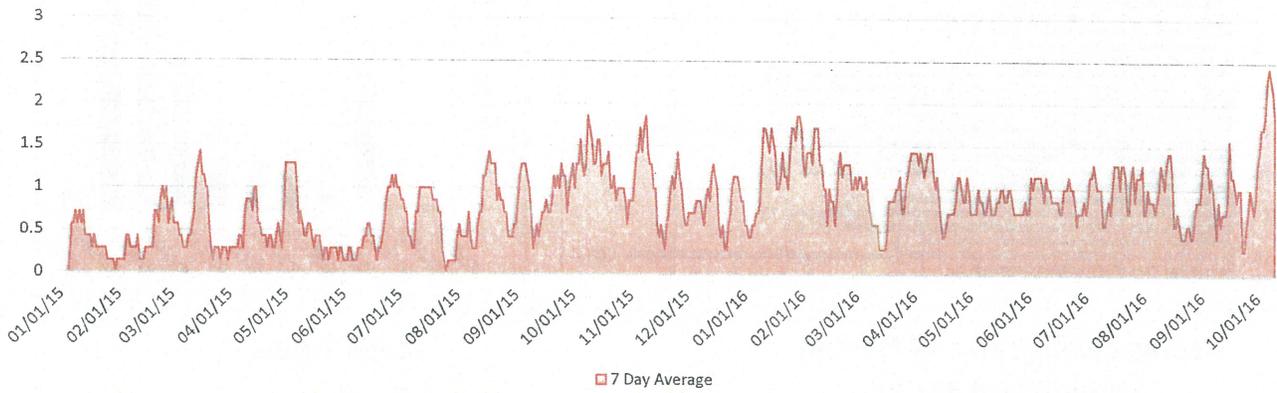
2015
OD Total - 250 Fatalities - 19

2016 YTD
OD Total - 337 Fatalities - 36

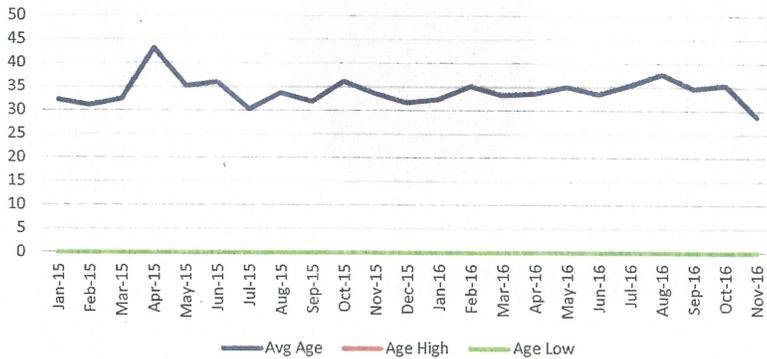
Monthly Overdose Count



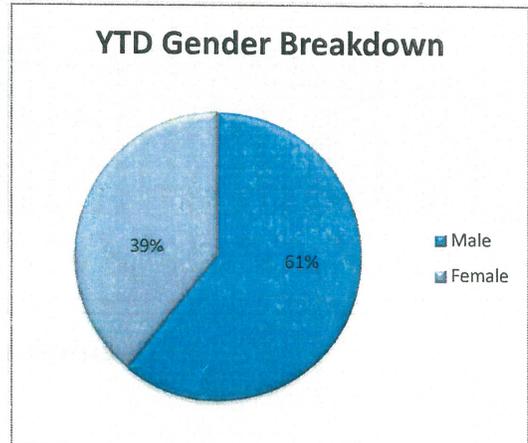
7 Day Moving Average



Patient Age Summary

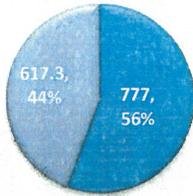


YTD Gender Breakdown



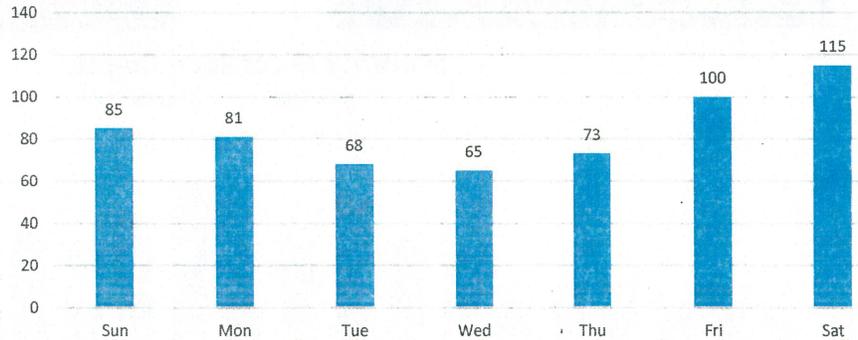
Nashua Summary

Narcan Milligrams Administered by Agency 2015-2016

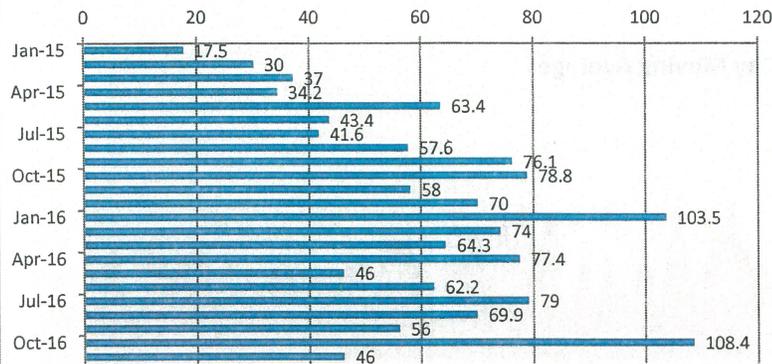


■ Fire
■ AMR

Suspected Overdoses by Day of Week

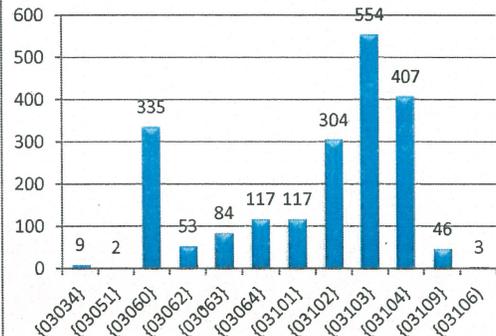


Milligrams of Narcan Administered

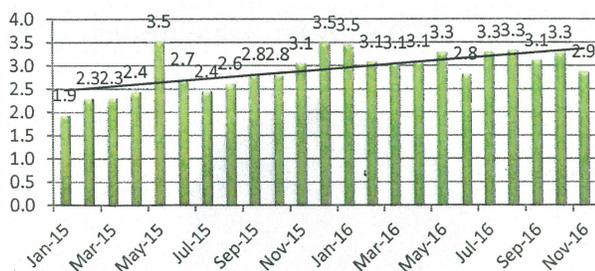


Distribution by Zip Code

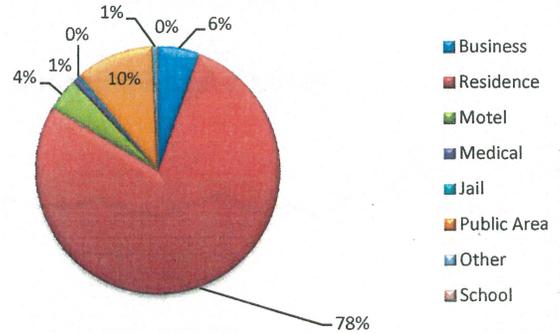
(All AMR Areas 2015-2016)



Average Milligrams of Narcan Administered Per Pt



Scene Types



Overdoses by Hour of Day (2015-2016)

