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School committee approves new budget

Huntington – At a special meeting held on June 28, the Gateway Regional School Committee unanimously approved a new version of the 2017-18 budget. While the total budget is only reduced by less than $10,000, it reflects nearly $106,000 in reductions and uses $20,000 from E & D to address the fact that the first budget was in deficit by $95,000. The Gateway budget was developed in December and a number of line items, such as insurance, have come in higher than originally budgeted.

Gateway’s member towns will now have 45 days to reconsider the budget. Version 2.0 reduces the total of town assessments to slightly less than 2.5%, although this will vary from town to town based on student enrollment. The towns of Blandford, Middlefield and Montgomery will not need to revote the budget, as they have already approved a higher budget (their assessments will simply be lowered to the new budget).

While the budget does not eliminate any staff positions that are currently filled, it will change some of Gateway’s operations. It eliminates or reduces 5 extra days for two secretaries, a new half-time nurse position, evening security, partial salary of the Food Services Director, secretary substitutes, teacher substitutes, para substitutes, AP textbooks, reduced copier use, curriculum facilitators, and replacing the guidance secretary when she retires midyear. A complete listing of reductions and the issues these raise may be found on the Gateway website, in the “information” drop-down menu (www.grsd.org/Content2/2).

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