

**Communications Committee Meeting**  
**6:30 p.m., February 6, 2006**  
**Minutes**

Present: Beverly Bacon, Keith Burke, Nan Fornal, Craig Hicks, Joe MacGregor, Bill McKinnon, Tom Welden

**Discussion of what kind of publicity the board would like to release to the public about the 2006-2007 budget and warrant articles.**

Craig said that SMS is holding an information night this Thursday, February 9, about the computer initiative.

Joe suggested that the communications committee meet again after the school district meeting's deliberative session has been held (on Wednesday evening, February 8). At that time we'll have a better idea of what kind of public relations effort we need to make.

Tom suggested that we meet immediately following the deliberative session. All members of the committee who were present agreed to that.

Tom said we need to describe what is in the budget (for example, all of the contractual obligations) and perhaps use a pie chart to explain the budget.

Craig pointed out that over the past 10 years, the school district has spent \$51 million on special education.

Tom said that large drivers of spending include unfunded (and partially funded) mandates and drops in revenue.

Joe said that we need to be careful that we do not isolate certain groups of students as being the cause of budget increases.

Bill said that these expenses don't compare with personnel expenses. The number of programs and, therefore, the number of employees is a larger part of the budget.

Keith will send a draft of the warrant to Nan.

Craig will have budget information for the board at the meeting of the full board tomorrow night (February 7).

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nan Fornal, chair  
Communications committee