

**WALLINGFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION CONFERENCE ROOM
43 HALL AVENUE, WALLINGFORD
THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2014**

MINUTES

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The Operations Committee Meeting was called to order by Mr. Brooder at 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Brooder, Castelli, Hlavac, Marrone, McKay, Miller, Votto – Cei entered at 6:05 p.m.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

S. Menzo, S. Parkhurst, C. McNamara, L. Winters, R. Mancusi, M. Deptula, S. Wong,
L. Reynolds

DISCUSSION OF 2014-2015 BUDGET

Dr. Menzo stated that we received the Mayor's budget figure on Wednesday of \$93,287,605., a 2.23% increase from the current year. The BOE proposed budget figure that was sent to the Mayor was \$95,231,505, a 4.36% increase. The adjusted Sustained Services budget is \$94,278,005. The 2.23% increase from the Mayor does not meet the needs of the Board of Education's Sustained Budget. The Board needs to reduce the proposed budget by \$990,400, or approximately 1 million dollars. Dr. Menzo distributed a handout of Results Based on Mayor's Recommended Budget; all of the new Strategic Plan items have been cut from the budget, excluding \$40,000 for a K-12 Math Coordinator and K-12 ELA Coordinator.

Dr. Menzo distributed a second handout with Additional Reductions to Consider Based on the Mayor's Proposed Budget: 1.6 World Language Teachers (K-2), \$135,000; Insurance Reduction, \$346,106; Additional Retirement Saving, \$64,895 and Reduced Contingency, \$63,849, decreasing the remaining reduction amount needed to \$380,550. There is also \$350,000 from CRRRA funds allocated for capital projects, but the Board of Education has over 1 million dollars in capital projects, \$600,000 for capital projects and \$500,000 for the Lyman Hall field project.

Roxane McKay asked for an update on the unencumbered fund balance. Linda Winters said as of February the unencumbered balance was \$742,408. Dr. Menzo also distributed a list of prioritized items allocated for capital repairs from the CRRRA funds. Marc Deptula reported that the asbestos abatement work will be paid for through CRRRA funds.

A lengthy discussion ensued about where to cut the budget. Dr. Menzo reported that the Mayor has agreed to allow the Board of Education to carry up to 1% of the operating budget; by law the Board has the right to carry over the funds. That money has been allocated for Technology and Facilities. There was discussion of possibly eliminating the contingency account. Joe Marrone suggested going to the Town Council Budget Workshop meeting without further reducing the budget and letting the Town Council get the full understanding of the situation the Board of Education is in. Roxane McKay agreed with Mr. Marrone's idea of going to the Budget

Workshop telling the Town Council that we need to reduce the budget by approximately \$525,000 and that the Board of Education is struggling with what to cut from the budget. Mike Votto expressed disappointment with the removal of the early education recommendation. Jay Cei questioned how the Mayor calculates the budget and felt if they could understand his process perhaps they could plan accordingly. Mr. Cei also suggested reaching out to community members to find out what the direction the community would like to go in, much like what was done with the focus groups and the Strategic Plan. Dr. Menzo stated he is planning a meeting with the Strategic Plan Core Group during the week of July 22, 2014 to address direction of the Board of Education and the Strategic Plan.

Dr. Menzo suggested possible ways to reduce the budget included adding more Open Choice Students. If the BOE added 80 additional Open Choice students in Wallingford that would increase funding by an additional \$240,000. Dr. Menzo felt this would be a value added to the school system. Dr. Menzo also suggested reducing the number of days students attend school from 184 to 180 days and extending the school day an additional 15 minutes and adding more early release days. The savings in transportation amounts to \$90,000 by reducing the number of days to 180, adding 15 minutes to each school day equates to the same amount of instruction time.

Mike Votto asked what the total was to support the Middle School Sports Program, Dr. Menzo replied \$90,000. Another idea was to outsource the Food Service Program. Dr. Menzo felt that there was not a significant savings by outsourcing the Food Service Program and involved a long term discussion of two to three years.

Upcoming meetings are PTAC, April 8th, 6:00 p.m., Town Council Budget Workshop, April 9th, 6:30 p.m., Instructional and Operations Committee Meetings, Monday, April 21st and the Board of Education Meeting, Monday, April 28th.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Brooder adjourned the Operations Committee meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Linda Reynolds