

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Tuesday, April 2, 2019
Stella Library Media Center

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the meeting to order (6:00 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Dr. Steve Fleischman, Vice Chair; Ms. Maegan Genovese, Secretary; Ms. Claire Coleman, Mr. Garrett Luciani, Ms. Lynn Piascyk, and Ms. Joyce Shavers.

STAFF: Mr. Robert Gilbert, Superintendent; Cheryl Mammen, Special Services Director; Al Pullo, Director of Business Services/Operations; Analisa Sherman, Assistant Principal; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Sand Stein, BOF Liaison; Doreen Merrill, WEA; Melissa Caporossi, Maria DePalma, William Letsch, Jean Molot, Elisa Rosner, Kathleen Marlor, Teresa Nakouzi, Teachers; Wendy Glynn, Teacher Assistant; Stacey Katz, Nurse Supervisor; Jane Roddy, Cafeteria Supervisor; and Maria Kayne and Lee Nakouzi, community.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ms. Kayne inquired about iPad purchases, the effectiveness of these purchases including the large screens throughout the building, student learning of basic grammar and spelling as well as the effect of technology in providing too much screen time for children and its effect on child development and vision and whether funding for these purchases could be utilized different to promote education for children.

2019/20 BUDGET REDUCTION: Superintendent Gilbert outlined the fiscal constraints towns across the state are facing and the reductions to the 2019/20 Budget Proposal by the Town Boards of Selectmen and Finance. Based on the BOF/BOS reductions, it was the recommendation of administration that reductions in the amount of \$317,649 be made to bring the budget increase down to 3.61 % from the original 5.77%. A 3.61% budget increase will fund (1) all current certified and non-certified staffing and programs; (2) contractual obligations (i.e. transportation, insurance, outplacement costs, etc.); and (3) 1.5 Resource Room teachers to meet the needs of our growing special education population. The specific reductions include:

Staff Reduction	0.25FTE Maintenance (<i>Remove Newly Proposed Position</i>)	(\$13,995)
Staff Reduction	1.0FTE Classroom Teacher (<i>Remove Newly Proposed Position</i>)	(\$82,769)
Staff Reduction	0.5 FTE School Psychologist (<i>Remove Newly Proposed Position</i>)	(\$46,769)
Staff Reduction	1.0 FTE Teacher Assistant (<i>Remove Newly Proposed Position</i>)	(\$49,520)
Equipment Reduction	Freeze Technology Equipment/Supplies Request to 2019/20 (<i>Possible use of Open Choice grant to offset</i>)	(\$23,000)
Instructional & Miscellaneous Supplies Reduction	Reduce Increase by \$17K (<i>Possible use of PreK Tuition to offset</i>)	(\$16,596)
Health Insurance	Anticipated Favorable Census Changes and Renewal Rate	<u>(\$85,000)</u>
Total Reductions to the 2019/20 Budget		\$317,649

The Board advocated their support for the above reductions. While not ideal, they provide continuation of current programming as presently structured and the least amount of impact on students. It was also noted that in accordance with past practice, now that the budget is finalized the hiring process, for the three vacancies created as a result of teacher retirements, would commence shortly.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (6:16 PM)
Dr. Fleischman
Second by Ms. Piascyk
UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board