

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Thursday, December 4, 2025
BRS South Assembly Room

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair, called the meeting to order (7:09 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn Piascyk, Chair; Dr. Jay Dahya; Steven Lawrence, Vice Chair; Dr. Michael Strambler and Erin Williamson.

STAFF: Christopher Montini, Superintendent; Analisa Sherman, Principal; Matthew Madruga, Cheryl Tafel, Assistant Principals; Carrie Borcherding, Special Services Director; Donna Coonan, Director of Business Services/ Operations and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

Chair Piascyk noted that there will be no action on the budget proposal this evening. Action will occur at the December 15 regular Board meeting. Questions raised this evening will be answered at the December 10 special meeting. Also, should it be necessary, the Board is also holding December 11 for a final review meeting.

2026/27 Budget Proposal – Superintendent Montini outlined the process administration followed in development of the 2026/27 proposed budget. The proposed budget is \$19,496,510 representing a 5.24% increase. The budget is predicated on identified needs of the district, supports the pursuit of accomplishing our goals and vision and aligns with the current Strategic Plan. It also supports the goal of sustaining a rigorous and inclusive learning environment that prepares all students to be successful, responsible global citizens and maintains fiscal prudence. It also supports our efforts for continued improvement and growth.

The budget includes a continued investment in technology and instructional resources. Reallocates a vacant teaching position to a .5 PreK teacher and a .5 Multilingual Tutor as a result of current student needs / enrollment changes. It also maintains class size levels recommended by the Board of Education. The primary drivers of the budget are contractual obligations and include Salaries (3.8%), Health Benefits (11.9%) and Transportation (15%). It is also noted that there has been a 40% increase in mandated special education services over the last 10 years and multi-lingual students have increased from 24 to 60.

Incorporated into the budget is a 5-year life cycle replacement plan for technology devices for students and staff. In this plan, laptops, iPads and Chromebooks will be replaced every five years based on life expectancy, usage and software updates/support as well as elimination of desktops.

The Woodbridge School District spends \$2,928.63 less per student than the CT state average for Per Pupil Expenditures and \$1,297 less than the DRG B average. Given that we rank #3 in the DRG for ELA and #2 in Math, there is a significant “return on investment” because of the partnership and value the community places on education. We continue to promote and foster high expectations for student growth in a learning environment that integrates student choice and critical thinking skills to prepare students for future learning and academic excellence.

Board members raised questions pertaining to additional needs. We do a great job making things happen and have a great return on investment so is there anything in the budget that we are foregoing. Is there something that a Greenwich, Darien, Westport has that we don't or something we might want to consider investing in to ensure our learners have access to the very best. This budget is depicted clearly and directly relates to goals and district initiatives. We know about the facility, however, educationally, is there anything we had to short-change or had to give up to arrive at this level of the budget. Were there any additional bus runs added this year (Analisa confirmed there were the same number of runs as prior years).

It was suggested that Bethany and Orange comparison data be added on the Per Pupil Expenditure chart and to carve out separately the special education costs in salaries, benefits, staffing and transportation. It was requested that an (*) be added on the bottom of the Enrollment Growth Chart indicating *based on current housing*.

The next budget review meeting is Wednesday, December 10 at 7:00 PM.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:29 PM)
Mr. Lawrence
Second by Dr. Strambler
UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.