

WILLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL MEETING

BUDGET WORKSHOP #2

MINUTES

January 24, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting: Zoom and Lower Level Town Office Building

Zoom Recording

Members Present (all in person)

Briana Ross - Chair

Jennifer Goodale - Vice Chair

Ann Grosjean

Tracey Anderson

Samantha Sperry, Secretary

Jon Mitchell

Members Absent

Arthur Christensen

Also Present

Superintendent Stevens and the administrative team

1. Call to order

Chair Ross called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Ross led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Present to Speak

No community members were present to speak.

4. Review of Programs Previously Presented (Programs 1, 2, and 4) and B.O.E. Discussion

Superintendent Stevens shared that the current average for superintendent proposed budgets in the state was a 4.91% increase.

5. Program 3 Special Education and Related Services, Review and BOE Discussion

Superintendent Stevens and Director of Special Education, Marcia McGinley, provided an overview of the special education process and how the program functions. Superintendent Stevens told the Board that the majority of the program is legally required to be provided and that the Board has little flexibility in funding adjustments. He noted the increase in outplacement tuition and transportation in the proposed budget, and that the Board did not have non-lapsing funds available to offset the costs.

6. Program 5 Health Services, Review and BOE Discussion

Superintendent Stevens stated that Program 5 was straightforward with two registered school nurses with minor contractual increases. He noted they left the supply lines flat and that the program had a 2.18% increase. Board members asked some questions about the program and they noted how amazing our school nurses are and the impact they have on the schools.

7. Program 6 Curriculum and Staff Development, Review and BOE Discussion

Superintendent Stevens shared that the funding from Program 6 will help continue curriculum revisions. He noted that the program has contractual costs for team leaders, conferences, and other stipends.

Professional development topics that the program would address include open-scienced, Illustrative Math, and the science of reading. He shared that the program had an 11.72% decrease.

8. Program 7 Utilities, Review and BOE Discussion

Superintendent Stevens shared that the utilities program had a 2.98% increase despite lower fuel costs. He noted slight increases in water and electricity for 24-25. Superintendent Stevens shared that the Board is in year 11 of 17 of the Siemens contract which was a performance improvement contract that addressed items such as the building envelope, door seals, occupancy sensors, and lighting.

9. Program 10 Fringe Benefits/Substitutes, Review and BOE Discussion

Superintendent Stevens stated that Program 10 typically has increases in health insurance, but that the program only has a 1.19% increase in his proposed budget. He shared that he decreased the substitute line based on the 5-year average and that he had to increase the social security line based on staff salaries.

Superintendent Stevens asked Board members for some guidance on the current status of his proposed budget. He noted that he believed based on updated information he could reduce the budget using some ARP ESSER funds to purchase non-recurring items. Board members felt the budget was needs-based and wanted him to bring his proposed changes to the next meeting.

10. Adjournment

J. Goodale made a motion to adjourn.

A. Grosjean seconded the motion.

Motion passes unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

RECEIVED
WILLINGTON, CT.

2024 JAN 29 A 10:55


TOWN CLERK