



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2019
Seymour High School
7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 1/19/2019
TIME: 3:39 pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christopher Champagne
James Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield (6:41 pm)
Edward Hendricks
Peter Kubik
Jennifer Magri

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Fred Stanek
Ed Strumello

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Michael Wilson, Superintendent of Schools
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent
Rick Belden, Asst. Sup - Finance & Operations
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Kris Boyle, Director of Special Services
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, SHS
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS
Lauren Reid, Assistant Principal, BS
David Olechna, Principal, CLS

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Magri called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:31 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

III. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Budget Presentation – Mr. Michael Wilson, Mrs. Tencza, Mr. Belden

Mr. Wilson said he would walk through the proposed budget and that all the Administrative team worked to put it together. Mr. Belden and Ms. Tencza will join in the discussion. He said they worked very hard to get this budget as close as possible to a zero increase. He feels this is a responsible and respectful budget. Mr. Champagne asked about the new guidance counselor and Mr. Wilson said this makes the position whole rather than splitting it between the high school and the middle school. Mr. Garofolo asked about the cost to replace Ms. Silva and Mr. Belden explained that the number used in the budget is a planning number and the actual cost could either be more or less than then depending on who is hired. Ms. Magri had some questions on the increase of the custodial line item and Mr. Belden explained it had to do with the distribution of part time and summer custodians. She also asked about the missing information on the monitor paraprofessionals. Mr. Belden said it must have been missed and he would get the information to her. Ms. Magri asked about the difference between regular instructional paraprofessionals and special education professionals. Ms. Tencza explained we do not differentiate between the two. Mr. Belden said he does but only for the purpose of completing a state report. Mr. Garofolo asked if we had any females apply for custodial jobs. Mr. Belden said we did not this time but have in the past. Ms. Harmeling said she supported the additional secretarial position but worried about not having a set schedule. She cautioned that we might not want to be so specific. A discussion on this position ensued with Mr. Belden explaining the rationale behind splitting this position.

Mr. Wilson continued going through the budget, line item by line item. Mr. Hatfield brought up the issue of the Town contributing to the cost of maintenance of the turf field. He reminded the Board that the Town had agreed to put money aside for this maintenance and wondered if any had been set aside as of yet. Mr. Belden suggested it might be on the capital plan. Ms. Magri said she had a conversation with town officials and she suggested we check on this. Dr. Hendricks asked if we were required to provide transportation to ECA. Mr. Belden said we are not required but it has been a long standing practice. In the past we had quite a few more students attending but it has dwindled. Mr. Wilson reminded the Board that they can recommend to eliminate transportation to ECA but would recommend grandfathering in the two students who would be affected. There was a brief discussion on the cost of postage and Mr. Belden said he felt our usage was not significant. Mr. Garofolo asked about bus routes and whether there was an opportunity to reduce the number of buses we use. Mr. Belden said he felt we are at a good place currently with the number of buses we use. Ms. Harmeling said she was somewhat concerned that we did not have any "positive information" to share with the public. Mr. Wilson said he thought there was good news to share and he would encourage Administrators to tell positive stories and something would be put together to share with the public. The Board discussed Mr. Belden's replacement and whether or not they wanted to post it as a Business Manager or Assistant Superintendent position. Mr. Wilson confirmed that it would not be a shared position with the Town. Mr. Hatfield suggested adding a part time Athletic Director to the budget but the Board agreed they did not want to add another administrator position to the budget. The athletic director position would be an administrator position because a 092 certificate is required. Ms. Magri said she felt there were quite a few things that needed to be corrected and at this time the Board did not feel comfortable in making a motion to pass the proposed budget. She suggested another meeting be set up on January 22 to review the necessary changes.

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: (Mr. Champagne/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to adjourn

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri

MOTION PASSES: 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk