



Board of Education Regular Meeting

January 25, 2016 7:30 PM
Board Meeting Room
Administrative Offices
137-B Glenwood Road
Clinton, CT 06413

Attendance Taken at 7:45 PM:

Present Board Members:

Annaliese Spaziano
Kim Buckley
Peter Giannotti
Sandra Luke
Lois Ruggiero

Absent Board Members:

Dr. Mike Giordano
Doug Traynor

Updated Attendance:

Sandra Luke was updated to present at: 7:45 PM
Sandra Luke was updated to absent at: 7:44 PM

1. Opening Exercises

1.A. Roll call

Discussion:

Other attendees: Superintendent Jack Cross, Assistant Superintendent Maryann O'Donnell, Business Manager Carolyn Dickey, and Student Representative Mike Van Ness. The two other student representatives, Andrew Tessman and Lindsay Harden, were absent.

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion:

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public participation/recognition

Discussion:

No public participation.

3. Proposed 2016-2017 Budget

Discussion:

J. Cross thanked the Board and administrators for the past two nights of budget presentations. His presentation listed the district's Mission & Driving Forces, all which sustain and enhance the work done to date, and then proposed what he believes is a resourceful, fiscally and educationally responsible budget for 2016-2017.

The total Proposed Operations Budget is \$31,821,338 which represents an overall Operations Budget Increase of \$403,750 and a 1.29% percent increase over the 2015-2016 approved budget.

The Total Proposed Budget for the Board of Education includes the following: Operations: \$31,821,338, Capital: \$352,306, and current Debt Service amount equal to \$1,510,340. The total of these three elements is \$33,683,984, an overall combined budget increase of \$1,192,996, or 3.67% increase. The proposed budget includes a reduction of three classroom teachers at the elementary level due to enrollment decreases. It also supports the addition of one special education teacher at Eliot, an additional paraeducator to support the ELL (English Language Learner) program at Morgan, and a new technology service technician. Other information presented included cost-containment efforts, state funding estimates and explanations, budget drivers, contractual obligation information, special education programming costs, and emerging needs in the district.

Mr. Cross highlighted the areas where increases and decreases are anticipated, as well as trends in areas such as heating, electric, employee benefits, personnel, and enrollment. Also noted were the efforts of the central office and administrative team to contain costs through line item scrutiny, program reorganization, and district level competitive bidding. Mr. Cross reviewed components of the budget book with the Board and the cost center line item budgets that were provided. Information regarding the debt service was provided and discussion ensued about the increase. Mr. Cross shared that this was an initial number and he has an upcoming meeting scheduled with the town Finance Director to review the information.

Following the presentation the Board asked clarifying questions and discussed concerns about the total budget that was presented. Areas of discussion included class sizes at the high school, world language enrollment, photocopying and printing costs, potential retirements, and whether this budget could be supported by the community.

The Board requested Mr. Cross to evaluate potential areas for reduction that could bring the budget down from the current proposed amount. A Budget and Finance subcommittee will be added to the schedule for Monday, February 1, 2016 in order for Mr. Cross to bring back potential reductions for the Board to review and discuss. The originally scheduled February 1st Public Relations meeting will be reposted as a joint Public Relations/Budget and Finance meeting with the topic of budget discussion.

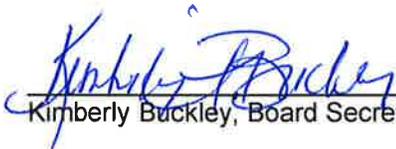
K. Buckley requested a clear calendar timeline for producing and mailing the Citizen's Guide to the Budget be created in order to prevent violation of any state legal requirements regarding distribution of the guide.

4. Adjournment

Motion Passed: To adjourn at 9:43 p.m. passed with a motion by Kim Buckley and a second by Sandra Luke.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Kim Buckley	Yes
Peter Giannotti	Yes
Dr. Mike Giordano	Absent
Annaliese Spaziano	Yes
Doug Traynor	Absent
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Sandra Luke	Yes



Kimberly Buckley, Board Secretary



Allison Friday, Board Recorder

