# Board of Education Special Meeting

February 10, 2016 8:00 PM
Board Meeting Room
Administrative Offices
137-B Glenwood Road
Clinton, CT 06413

**Attendance Taken at 8:01 PM:**

Present Board Members:
Annaliese Spaziano
Kim Buckley
Sandra Luke
Lois Ruggiero
Doug Traynor

Absent Board Members:
Peter Giannotti
Dr. Mike Giordano

**1. Opening Exercises**
**1.A. Roll call**
**1.B. Pledge of Allegiance**

Discussion:
All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Public participation/recognition**

Discussion:
Kirk Carr thanked the Board of Education for its efforts and hoped for budget passage at the first referendum.

Erica Gelven, Clinton PTA President, although not representing the PTA when she spoke, expressed her admiration of the balance the Board has struck between realistically funding the best quality education given the resources available to our town.

**3. Proposed 2016-2017 Budget**

Discussion:
Mr. Cross distributed and reviewed the original Budget Reduction Considerations Initial Options from February 1, 2016, which provided approximately $89K in operation reductions, an increase of 0.66% over last year's operations budget.

He then presented a revised Budget Reduction Consideration Budget of further cuts which factor in a .04 reduction in a health teacher FTE at Morgan, the movement of a 1.0 FTE special education teacher to an IDEA grant, the movement of an ELL paraprofessional to the Title II grant, and the reduction of an English teacher at Morgan.

As per the Board's request, he provided the results of his analysis in three budget areas:

* Health/Sick Leave - The analysis of overall change and adjustments to staffing resulted in a potential increase of $16,700 on the health insurance line;

* Dues & Fees - The original proposed budget included a $13K reduction. After further analysis, no additional cuts were recommended;

* Utilities - Incomplete. The trend data on gas and electric usage from our engineers and architects did not provide sufficiently clear information necessary to give the Superintendent confidence in making further adjustments at this time. He is working with the engineers and utility companies to generate a more useful comparison.

A. Spaziano asked him to contact Guilford Public Schools in order to see if they have realized any savings with their new school.

The latest budget reduction options provide approximately $282K in operation reductions as compared to the Superintendent's proposed budget, bringing the operations budget down to $31,581,934, an increase of 0.52% over last year's operations budget.

Discussion followed regarding options for the Health and Chinese Language programs. The Board would have to vote on reducing the number of Health credits required at the high school before the start of the 2016-17 school year. Plans to keep the Chinese program were discussed as it is a Critical Language and one that distinguishes Clinton from area districts. K. Buckley requested reassurance that the position would be adjusted based on actual enrollment.

The Board thanked Jack and all the administrators for their time, energy, and effort in preparing and researching the line items.

**Motion Passed:** To approve the proposed 2016-2017 Board of Education Operations Budget of $31,581,934 passed with a motion by Kim Buckley and a second by Lois Ruggiero.

**4 Yeas - 0 Nays - 1 Abstained.**

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

**4. Adjournment**

**Motion Passed:** To adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Kim Buckley.

**5 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

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

Kimberly Buckley, Board Secretary

Allison Friday, Board Recorder