



Board of Education Regular Meeting

Monday, January 23, 2023 7:00 PM

Board Meeting Room
Administrative Offices
137 B Glenwood Road
Clinton, CT 06413

Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM.

Jason Adler: Present
Erica Gelven: Present
Michael Hornyak: Present
Peter Nye: Present
Alan Samet: Present
Jack Scherban: Present
Catherine Staunton: Present

1. Opening Exercises

A. Roll call

Also in attendance were Superintendent Maryann O'Donnell, Assistant Superintendent Marco Famiglietti, and Business Manager Carolyn Dickey.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the pledge.

2. Public participation/recognition

There was no public participation.

3. Minutes - Approval - Regular Meeting of January 3, 2023

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 3, 2023. Carried with a motion by Jack Scherban and a second by Jason Adler.

Jason Adler: Yea
Erica Gelven: Yea
Michael Hornyak: Abstain
Peter Nye: Abstain
Alan Samet: Yea
Jack Scherban: Yea
Catherine Staunton: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Abstain: 2

4. Superintendent's Proposed 2023-2024 Budget

Superintendent M. O'Donnell presented her proposed 2023-2024 budget formally to the Board. The operating budget request was presented at \$35,565,410, an increase of \$1,013,206, or 2.93%.

The Board's vote on the proposed operating budget will be on its February 6 agenda. If approved, the budget will be presented to the Town of Clinton. M. O'Donnell discussed the budget's support of the district's mission, goals, and strategic priorities in order to support students and staff. The focus on students and staff includes ensuring positive learning environments with appropriate class sizes, individualized and personalized instruction, quality curriculum and materials, athletics and extracurricular activities, mental health and behavioral supports. The budget is focused on maintaining diverse program offerings, meeting students needs, and providing staff with the environment, support, and materials necessary to ensure student learning. Administration also factored in declining enrollment and the pressure of inflation on various goods and services. At the January 3, 2023, Board of Education meeting, M. O'Donnell indicated the initial budget needs and requests were approximately 5% and included an anticipated rise of 12% in health insurance costs. She credited each school and department with working diligently to reduce those costs and bring the proposed budget to the current 2.93% increase.

M. O'Donnell reviewed a few of the major forces driving the operating budget increase: inflationary increases on the purchase of goods and materials, electricity costs, contracted services, and the impacts of grant funds no longer being available to fund needed student services. The budget includes an adjustment in staffing to address declining student enrollment, and includes a reduction in 5.2 certified positions. The reductions in staff were made while continuing to maintain appropriate student/teacher ratios, comprehensive programming, and needed mental health and intervention supports for students.

The status of the other components of the proposed budget (Capital - \$570,566, and Debt Service - \$2,905,835) were also provided. In total, the proposed operating, capital, and debt service budget requests is \$39,041,811. This represents an increase of \$1,252,575 or 3.31%.

Discussion followed regarding per pupil expenditure numbers, staffing, and snow removal costs.

M. O'Donnell thanked teachers, staff, administrators, and the Board of Education for their support in developing the budget. E. Gelven asked that Board members direct any questions to M. O'Donnell.

5. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. Carried with a motion by Peter Nye and a second by Catherine Staunton.

Jason Adler: Yea
Erica Gelven: Yea
Michael Hornyak: Yea
Peter Nye: Yea
Alan Samet: Yea
Jack Scherban: Yea
Catherine Staunton: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Michael Hornyak, Board Secretary

Allison Friday, Board Recorder