

Meeting: February 4, 2015

Staples High School

**WESTPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES**

Board Members Present:

Michael Gordon Chair
Jeanie Smith Vice Chair
Elaine Whitney Secretary
Brett Aronow
Karen Kleine

Administrators Present:

Elliott Landon Superintendent of Schools
Elio Longo Dir. of School Business Operations
James D'Amico Dir. of Secondary Ed & Research
Julie Droller Dir. of Elementary Education
Marge Cion Director of Human Resources
Michael Rizzo Director of Pupil Services

Absent:

Mark Mathias
Paul Block

PUBLIC SESSION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: 7:32 p.m., Staples High School, Cafeteria B (Room 301)

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

MINUTES: Elaine Whitney moved to approve the minutes of January 29, 2015; seconded by Michael Gordon; passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION/ACTION:

Adoption of 2015-2016 Proposed Budget of the Board of Education

Be It Resolved, That the Board of Education authorizes additions and deletions to the Proposed 2015-2016 Budget of the Superintendent of Schools totaling \$1,822,737, as follows:

- Motion to decrease line 102: teacher salaries by **\$100,000**, in order to reflect increased savings from turnover.

MOTION: Elaine Whitney
SECOND: Michael Gordon

Motion to amend the original motion to change the proposed \$100,000 reduction to a **\$50,000** reduction.

MOTION: Elaine Whitney

SECOND: Brett Aronow
RESULT: Not Passed
VOTE: 2-3 (Elaine Whitney and Brett Aronow in favor; Michael Gordon, Jeannie Smith and Karen Kleine opposed; Mark Mathias and Paul Block absent)

Original motion withdrawn by Elaine Whitney.

- Motion to keep line 104: teacher support at the level proposed by the Superintendent, including **\$240,500** for a net addition of 3.7 FTEs for literacy coaches (plus a corresponding net increase in benefits cost of **\$72,000** in line 210).

MOTION: Brett Aronow
SECOND: Michael Gordon
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 5-0

- Motion to increase line 118: intramural coaches by **\$7,865**, to provide stipends for Unified Sports, a Special Education program, at the elementary level.

MOTION: Michael Gordon
SECOND: Karen Kleine
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 5-0

- Motion to keep line 129: security aides at the level proposed by the Superintendent, including **\$192,000** for a net addition of 6.0 FTEs for security aides (plus a corresponding increase in benefits cost of **\$108,000** in line 210).

MOTION: Karen Kleine
SECOND: Michael Gordon
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 5-0

- Motion to keep line 130: bus monitors at the level proposed by the Superintendent, including **\$180,000** to maintain the current level of bus monitors for regular education purposes.

MOTION: Karen Kleine
SECOND: Jeannie Smith

Motion by Elaine Whitney to amend the original motion to add the establishment of a plan to rotate regular education bus monitors in order to achieve greater parity and to actively assess their value over the upcoming year; the proposed amendment was not seconded, so it was not voted upon.

Vote on original motion:

RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 5-0

- Motion to reduce line 210: health benefits by **\$677,292**, per the recommendation of the Superintendent, to reflect improvements to the projection of net health benefit costs for 2015-2016, based on the most current data.

MOTION: Elaine Whitney
SECOND: Karen Kleine
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 5-0

- Motion to reduce line 210: health benefits by **\$500,000**, per the recommendation of the Superintendent, to reflect improvements to the projection of net health benefit costs for 2014-2015, based on the most current data.

MOTION: Brett Aronow
SECOND: Karen Kleine
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 5-0

- Motion to reduce line 211: life & LTD premiums by **\$24,288**, per the recommendation of the Superintendent, to reflect improvements to the projection of net benefit costs for 2015-2016, based on the most current data.

MOTION: Elaine Whitney
SECOND: Brett Aronow
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 5-0

- Motion to reduce line 260: workers' compensation premiums by **\$122,722**, per the recommendation of the Superintendent, to reflect improvements to the projection of net benefit costs for 2015-2016, based on the most current data.

MOTION: Elaine Whitney
SECOND: Jeannie Smith
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 5-0

- Motion to reduce line 330: other professional services by **\$25,000**, to fund the cost of the Staples High School architectural design and feasibility study from the projected FY15 year-end balance, based on the most current data.

MOTION: Michael Gordon
SECOND: Karen Kleine
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 5-0

- Motion to reduce line 413: electricity by **\$150,000**, per the recommendation of the Superintendent, to reflect improvements to the projection of net costs for 2015-2016, based on the most current data.

MOTION: Elaine Whitney
SECOND: Karen Kleine

RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 5-0

- Motion to reduce line 421: contracted services by **\$14,800**, to fund the school lunch equipment inspection instead from the Food Services Internal Service Fund.

MOTION: Karen Kleine
SECOND: Elaine Whitney
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 5-0

- Motion by Karen Kleine for discussion purposes to reduce line 434: non-instructional equipment repairs by **\$10,000**, with funding to come instead from the Food Services Internal Service Fund. Motion withdrawn based on input from the Administration regarding specific project plans.
- Motion to reduce lines 435, 436, 437 & 732: building & grounds projects and equipment collectively by **\$390,485**, per the recommendation of the Superintendent, to classify selected facilities projects and asset purchases as capital projects, and to fund them instead through request(s) for special appropriation(s) for capital projects.

MOTION: Jeannie Smith
SECOND: Michael Gordon
RESULT: Not Passed
VOTE: 1-4 (Jeannie Smith in favor; Michael Gordon, Elaine Whitney, Brett Arronow and Karen Kleine opposed; Mark Mathias and Paul Block absent)

- Motion to reduce lines 435, 436 & 437: building & grounds projects collectively by **\$300,000**, per the recommendation of the Superintendent, to fund selected facilities projects and asset purchases instead from the projected FY15 year-end balance.

MOTION: Brett Aronow
SECOND: Elaine Whitney

Motion to amend the original motion to increase the reduction to **\$500,000**, per the recommendation of the Superintendent, based on the most current data.

MOTION: Brett Aronow
SECOND: Jeannie Smith
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 5-0

Vote on amended motion:

RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 5-0

- Motion by Elaine Whitney for discussion purposes to reduce line 560: tuition -- private & public by **\$100,000**, with funding to come instead from State Excess Cost reimbursement via the IDEA grant program. Motion withdrawn based on input from the Administration regarding current projections.
- Motion to increase lines 510, 511 & 516: transportation collectively by **\$196,000**, per the recommendation of the Superintendent, to reflect changes to the projection of net costs for 2015-2016, based on the most current data.

MOTION: Elaine Whitney
SECOND: Jeannie Smith
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 5-0

- Motion to reduce line 611: instructional supplies by **\$12,500**, revising the per-pupil expenditure amount at the elementary level to reflect an additional contribution of \$5 per elementary school family toward a uniform, District-supplied package of consumable classroom supplies (total family contribution based on action through the 2014-2015 & 2015-2016 budgets = \$25, with no cost for families in need).

MOTION: Elaine Whitney
SECOND: Brett Aronow
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 5-0

And, Be It Further Resolved, That the Board of Education approves for submission to the Board of Finance and RTM a Proposed 2015-2016 Budget of the Board of Education in the amount of \$111,471,756, which incorporates said additions and deletions, and which reflects a budget-to-budget increase of \$2,268,772, or 2.08%, with a copy of the completed proposed budget to be appended to the minutes of the meeting of February 4, 2015.

MOTION: Michael Gordon
SECOND: Jeannie Smith
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 5-0 (Mark Mathias and Paul Block absent)

DISCUSSION:

Update on Collaborative Efforts with town of Westport: November 1, 2014 - January 31, 2015

ADJOURNMENT: Michael Gordon moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 p.m.; seconded by Jeannie Smith and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Whitney, Secretary
(Minutes written by Lisa Marriott)