

WATERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting  
January 12, 2006  
15 Rope Ferry Road  
Waterford, CT

PRESENT: Mr. Brunelle, Mrs. Cairns, Mr. Egan, Mrs. McCarty, Mrs. Nazarchyk, Mrs. Ogden, Mr. Taglianetti

ABSENT: Mr. Benoit, Mr. Blevins

STAFF: Dr. Collins, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Curran, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Mr. DeRay, Business Manager; Mrs. Lowther, Director of Human Resources; Mrs. Rosenfield, Director of Special Services; Mrs. Cumming, Administrative Assistant; Mr. Crane, Director of Information Technology; Mrs. Giordano, Interim Principal, Cohanzie Elementary School; Mr. Powers, Principal, Great Neck Elementary School; Dr. Dexter, Principal, Quaker Hill Elementary School; Mrs. Fedor, Principal, Southwest Elementary School; Mrs. Macione, Principal, Oswegatchie Elementary School; Mr. Lovetere, Principal, Clark Lane Middle School; Mr. Macrino, Principal, Waterford High School; and Mrs. Masterjoseph, Curriculum Director

Mrs. McCarty established a quorum, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance. Dr. Collins offered introductory comments on the \$417,329 proposed increase in the education budget for 2006-07, an increase of 4.19% over last year. Excluding utility and health insurance increases, the budget increase is 1.9%. Dr. Collins explained that utilities for the current year may require a supplemental appropriation. He also reviewed staffing and full-time equivalents for teachers which have decreased due to declining enrollment and school consolidation.

Mrs. Cairns felt that the budget did not clearly identify how income and grants were applied. In some cases, a line item may show \$0 if a grant, such as Title I funds, covered the expense. She requested that the actual expense be listed and then a credit line applied to show the source of funding. Dr. Collins agreed that the suggestion could be helpful for future budget years. Mrs. Cairns also asked about high class sizes in first grade in spite of grant monies received for the purpose of reducing class size. Dr. Collins suggested rewording the explanation of the grant to show that the money would be used to offset costs to maintain manageable first grade class sizes.

In response to a question from Mr. Taglianetti regarding a reduction of one Tech. Ed teacher at the middle school, Mr. Curran explained that the metals program was discontinued when Mr. Wagner retired last year. Mrs. Nazarchyk suggested that the number of teachers in each line item description be included in parenthesis. Dr. Collins agreed to provide the information as a supplemental handout. Mr. Taglianetti said it was difficult to correlate information on page 17 with charts on pages 23-25, and after considerable effort gave up trying to account for Language Arts and English teaching positions. Dr. Collins suggested that for next year he would try to provide the information based on program rather than location. Mr. Brunelle said he found it difficult to track the history of certain positions such as Curriculum Director which morphed from Language Arts Coordinator and Math Coordinator positions (p. 25). Dr. Collins explained that the Language Arts Coordinator position, held by Mrs. Nancy Souza, was subsequently combined with the Math Coordinator position, held by Mrs. Kathy Suprin. There was a Computer Coordinator position, held by Mrs. Rosetta Rivera-Fremont, which was reduced through attrition.

*Pending Consent Agenda Approval*

The L.A./Math Coordinator position was previously included as a teaching position. Dr. Collins explained that because of expanded responsibilities and grade levels, the Curriculum Director must be listed as an administrative position due to state certification requirements. The estimated savings to the district is \$106,000.

Mrs. Cairns questioned the disproportionate number of 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes with 25 or more students compared to classes of 25 or more in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Dr. Collins replied that a scheduling change could accommodate smaller classes in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and that scheduling should be reconsidered before consideration is giving to hiring additional staff.

Discussion followed on possible additional savings as a result of RIF (reduction in force) of some support positions due to Quaker Hill and Cohanzie consolidation next year.

Discussion followed on Employee Benefits, p. 35. In response to a question from Mr. Taglianetti regarding the health insurance increase of \$325,000, Mr. DeRay explained that the health insurance program was self-insured and this was an estimate of what was needed to maintain the current fund balance. Information from the insurance company has not been received yet.

Discussion followed on Contracted Services, p. 39 and Transportation, p. 43. Dr. Collins explained that student transportation for The Friendship School will be reviewed next week to determine if busses from New London might pick up Waterford students on its way to The Friendship School and vice versa. Mr. Taglianetti suggested a footnote be added to p. 43 to reflect that transportation costs were estimated based on 4 schools and that the bus routes as a result of redistricting have not yet been worked out. Mrs. Cairns requested that the budget reflect the total cost of transportation prior to credits.

Communications and Tuition accounts were reviewed. Mrs. Nazarchyk requested a short description of the programs listed on page 58 which Mrs. Rosenfield will provide.

Budget review will resume next week with Other Purchased Services (p. 61). Mrs. McCarty requested that the Mission Statement be added to the budget book before it goes for final printing.

Motion: That the Waterford Board of Education adjourns its regular and budget meeting at 9:20 p.m.  
Nazarchyk, Ogden—Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Jody Nazarchyk  
Secretary

JN;jc