

Waterford Board of Education
Special Meeting
February 1, 2007
15 Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385

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

ABSENT Mr. Brunelle

STAFF: Dr. Collins, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Seroussi, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Cumming, Administrative Assistant; Mr. DeRay, Business Manager; Mrs. Lowther, Director of Human Resources; Mrs. Rosenfield, Director of Special Services; Mr. Miner, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Mrs. Masterjoseph, Director of Curriculum; Mr. Powers, Principal, Great Neck Elementary School; Dr. Dexter, Principal, Cohanzie Elementary School; Mrs. Fedor, Principal, Southwest Elementary School; Mrs. Macione, Principal, Oswegatchie Elementary School; Mr. Lovetere, Principal, Clark Lane Elementary School

LIAISON/TOWN AGENCIES: Mrs. Larder, Board of Finance Liaison; Ms. Grogan, Reporter for The Day

Mrs. McCarty established a quorum, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m., and led the pledge of allegiance.

Dr. Collins recommended approval of the request from Mrs. Laura Riordan for a leave of absence for the 2007-08 school year.

Motion: That the Waterford Board of Education approves the Leave of Absence request from Mrs. Laura Riordan for the 2007-08 school year.
Nazarchyk, Cairns—Unanimous

Dr. Collins distributed a Budget Adjustment dated February 1, 2007 which will not affect the bottom line of the budget. He also distributed Notes to the Budget (#2) with information on issues discussed at the January 18th regular and budget meeting, including: value of the dollar comparison 1986 and 1992 to date; recap of savings due to closing of Quaker Hill for the 2006-07 school year; tuition income; community center custodian; overtime custodial history; Perkins grant monies; and support staff full-time equivalent explanation of discrepancy.

Budget review continued where it left off at January meeting. Bus route publishing costs will be borne by Laidlaw per recent contract negotiation. Funds included in advertising budget for publishing bus routes in newspaper will be applied to other advertising costs. Discussion followed on Special Services Out of District Public Placements, no-nexus student placements, and which services are provided on-site. Mrs. Nazarchyk requested that an explanation of acronyms be included in future budgets.

Under conferences/meetings, the explanation will be revised to reflect that this account covers attendance by board members as well as school personnel at conferences. Also, an explanation for field trips budget amount will be included on page 62. Mrs. Nazarchyk questioned 103% increase in testing supplies.

Pending Consent Agenda Approval

Dr. Collins explained that the funds for marching band, which will most likely become a student club activity next year, will not be released to W.H.S. without specific request including explanation and rationale. Drama club has seen a significant increase in number of students participating.

Under equipment, Mrs. Cairns questioned the discrepancy between budgeted amounts for overhead projectors at Clark Lane Middle School (and Cohanzie) at \$100 each and Waterford High School at \$180 each. Mrs. Cairns also questioned the \$1500 budgeted for miscellaneous athletic equipment as needed. Dr. Collins will report back to the board on these items in the next district update. The item described as portable game standards is actually aluminum stanchions for volleyball.

Discussion followed on enrollment and class size data. Mrs. Cairns asked whether paraprofessionals were added to three grade one classes at Cohanzie which are currently at 19, 20 and 21 students. Dr. Dexter explained that special education aides are utilized when possible. Dr. Collins was under the impression a paraprofessional was assigned and will look into the issue. The class size data in the budget shows Southwest with one class of 21 students; in reality, this class grew to 24 before being split into two sessions of 12 each. Dr. Collins suggested using December class size numbers in the future for a more accurate picture.

Mrs. McCarty questioned why there were four less Physical Education sections at Clark Lane Middle School when compared to last year's budget. Mr. Lovetere will report back.

Mr. Taglianetti questioned the current large Math class sizes at the high school such as Algebra which has 58 students split into 2 sections, or 29 per class. Dr. Collins explained that it should improve next year when a half-time teacher is added to Math. Dr. Collins agreed to review 2007-08 class size numbers for Math after high school course registration is completed in April. Dr. Collins also suggested a presentation by the High School Guidance Department showing projected class sizes with new staffing plan. Mrs. Cairns questioned two sections of Chinese language course with total enrollment of 11. Dr. Collins explained that the teacher was paid via a stipend and that the program had not developed as he had hoped. The viability of this program will also be reviewed.

Motion: That the Waterford Board of Education approves and adopts the proposed education budget for 2007-08 in the sum of \$38,174,085 representing a 3.59% increase over current year budget.
Nazarchyk, Taglianetti—Unanimous

Motion: That the Waterford Board of Education adjourns its special meeting at 9:08 p.m.
Ogden, Egan—Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Jody Nazarchyk
Secretary