

Board of Education Meeting
January 11, 2016

Call to Order

Board Chair Gee called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. in the Suffield Middle School Media Center. Present: Board members Lori D'Ostuni, Natalie Semyanko, Jeanne Gee, Kendra Wiesel, Matt Service, Susi Keane, John Richter, Superintendent Karen Berasi, Assistant Superintendent Brian Hendrickson and Business Manager Bill Hoff.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

None

Discussion Items

- December Financial Report
Mr. Hoff said the projected year end shows a net surplus is \$200,496; a decrease of \$40,014 from last month due to increases in professional services, legal services, repairs and maintenance, and dues and fees. Some savings were realized in maintenance salaries and health benefits. There were no significant changes in the state and federal grants since the November report. The food service report was not yet available.
- General Services Budget Presentation
Mr. Hoff presented the general services budget which includes central office salaries and other expenses, legal fees, benefits, property and liability insurance, and the school resource officer. He highlighted the categories and budgeted amounts. The cost of benefits comprises 16.9% of the total budget, and a 2.1% increase from 2015-2016. Mr. Hoff said the total health insurance budget is projected to increase by 5.6%, and explained the components that make up the health insurance costs. Mr. Hoff reviewed assumptions for the general services budget, including health insurance premiums, pension contributions, turnover, degree changes, workers' compensation, and property and liability insurance. Board members asked questions relative to the data presented.
- Special Education/Pupil Personnel Services Budget Presentation
Ms. Taylor thanked the administration and, in particular, Mr. Moccio, Ms. Strange and Ms. Kolodziej for their work on this budget. Ms. Taylor reviewed the budget drivers: hiring an additional psychologist for SHS, partnering with the Center for Children with Special Needs, the reduction in paraprofessionals, and the increase in tuition costs for out of district students. Ms. Taylor reviewed the special education population over the last 5 years. Ms. Taylor said there is a great need for another psychologist at the high school to address student attendance

issues, increased referrals to special education, and a high number of students who have been transported to the hospital for social emotional issues. Partnering with the Center for Children with Special Needs will help to build capacity for staff across the district by giving quality professional training and coaching to staff. This would be a consult model which would include a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Ms. Taylor reviewed the special education and pupil personnel services budget summary. She explained the excess cost factors for both out of district and in district and showed examples of reimbursements. This budget aligns the needed resources to build capacity of staff, build specialized programs, and educate and collaborate with families. Board members asked questions relative to the information presented.

Action Items

None

Reports to the Board

Superintendent's Report

- None

Chair's Report

- Board Chair Gee confirmed the Board of Education Workshop on January 30 at 9:00 a.m.

Business Manager's Report

- None

Subcommittee Reports

- Communications – Superintendent Berasi received response letters from Senator John Kissel and Mr. John Carbone, of Power Point Energy, relative to the letter she sent regarding the energy contract.

Future Business

None

Adjournment

Service moved, Richter seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting on January 19, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori D'Ostuni
Secretary