

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 26, 2018

Approved 3/14/2018

A special meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Monday, February 26, 2018 in the Center School Gym at 7:00 p.m.

Present were: Ms. Carr, Chairperson; Ms. Stone; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Pavlick; Mr. Shuhi; Mr. Simone; and Mr. Terzian.

Absent was: Mr. Morosani.

Also present were: Superintendent Turner; Mr. Fiorillo; Ms. Haggard; Ms. Della Volpe; Mr. Ammary; Dr. Pascento; the press and members of the public.

MOTION made by Mr. Terzian and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to bring Spanish back with \$30,000 put back in the budget and another \$30,000 found in other cuts to the budget to cover the total cost of \$60,000.

Board members discussed: need to bring back to CPP committee to decide how to bring the language back; scheduling issues; type of exposure for students; get input from other districts; need flexibility; numbers included; one FTE needed; 7 & 8 get it every day; type of program needed; possibly eliminate something else to include Spanish; issues with taking something else away to cover Spanish costs; and need to include summer reading classes.

MOTION withdrawn by Mr. Terzian and seconded by Mr. Pavlick.

MOTION made by Mr. Terzian and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to bring the Spanish position back and increase the budget by \$60,000 to do so.

MOTION carried. Ms. Stone; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Pavlick; Mr. Terzian voted in the affirmative. Mr. Shuhi and Mr. Simone voted in the negative. Ms. Carr abstained.

Board members discussed: L.C.S. Summer Academy; done by teacher recommendations; benefits for students; math support added last year; different than in the past; has been successful; possibly use library and other community partners to cover student needs; library very cooperative with books available; input from Mr. Fiorillo; thanks to Board for finding stipend expense of \$9,000 no longer needed; and now goes to summer program.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Simone: to approve the funding of the summer reading program as presented.

MOTION carried. Ms. Carr; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Pavlick; Mr. Shuhi; Mr. Simone; Mr. Terzian voted in the affirmative. Ms. Stone voted in the negative. There were no abstentions.

Board members discussed: concerns for the other 6 FTE positions that are eliminated; equally important for students; class size issues; enrollment projections; scheduling issues in buildings; possible plan for reinstating some; limits of course offerings; need to improve system; sections need to cover classes; Business and Technology cuts at L.H.S.; PD dues and fees issues; distributed over schools; same number of active teachers; could fill something else; not eliminating programs but number of classes; possibly use Wamogo as resource to share; budget is an estimation; close to the bone with this budget; sub committees met to look at budget; given zero budget is restrictive; will sustain high level of teaching; 2% increase needed to keep the status quo; cuts are not arbitrary; not in favor of cutting staff; issues with art classes and teaching schedules; staff is shared between buildings; not confident with 0% increase; effectively a \$500,000 cut; a lot could be accomplished; possibly increase 2% to cover status quo; teacher face time with students; need to look at band, Spanish, Science; 60 classes at L.H.S. with less than 15 students; 30 classes at L.H.S. with less than 10 students; issues with offering specials; not losing opportunities for students; 118 students in courses for Business; issues with requirements not being available; could use different combinations; \$60,000 increase in budget equals, 31% increase with 185 students served; issues with Business class prerequisites; ideal class sizes for courses; Civics 8 and 17 enrolled could combine to 25 total; issues with 3rd grade enrollment and 5th grade enrollment; 22 students projected; effectiveness of teacher vital with larger class sizes; PD funding Reading and Writing workshops; work with teachers at every level; summer institute; coaching workshops; work with Columbia; enhance programs; \$87,000 PD funds have been spent this year; need for CAFE; need for most important FTEs to be put back in budget; look at non-personnel cuts; not enough to work with after covering salaries and benefits; possibly ask Board of Finance for 2% increase; go with an acceptable and appropriate budget to present; 0% have to cut positions; flexibility of teachers; independent research projects provided for students; Capstone requirements; possibly cut Capstone; not required yet; use independent study; possibly take funding from legal account; slippery slope if needed; consulting outside staff required if needed; compliance obligations in Special Ed needs; part time art teacher \$25,000 to \$35,000; issues with number of administrators, issues with Dean of Students; duties cover other staff that would be needed so cost is approximately \$20,000; number of evaluations done by administrators in each; somewhat unbalanced; SRBI requirements; issues with coordinators positions; Language Art's needs; number of classes taught; coordinators under prevue of building principals; stipends for coordinators; work done outside of school time; need solidified plan for coordinators; look at administration needs; 6th grade issues with teacher cut; 4th grade enrollment goes up; contact time with students; consistent time for specials; STEM instruction; scores went up; scheduling with 6 day rotation; specials put back in; utilize staff to the fullest; share Art with L.H.S.; rotations for 6th grade; could free up someone for SRBI; issues with electrical costs; 4 year no savings with \$100,000 after 4 years; using much less kilowatts; long term plan; 30% reduction; oil bids are flexible; in consortium; price fluctuation a factor; go out to bid in spring; projector bulbs \$300; very expensive for Smart Boards; have turn off plans; 2 Smart Board replacements; parred down

this year can't do too often; can't get behind with technology; replace as needed; can't ignore needs; issues with costs for provider of website; will switch in future; survey issues; shared costs with Greenwoods and Litchfield Education Foundation; need to keep same survey if want to compare results; do every other year; school climate issues to be addressed; look at possible free survey; not free but Board recommendation; can't be different survey to compare results; need to compare results and respond to results; different surveys for kids and parents.

Board consensus was to revisit the Budget at the next Board meeting with an increase of .31% to include Spanish for \$60,000 and use \$9,185 from stipend no longer needed to fund summer reading program. Community members were asked to send any questions or comments to the Board.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Terzian", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew B. Terzian, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary