

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 29, 2017

DRAFT

A Special Meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 29, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield High School Library Media center.

Present were: Mr. Simone, Chair; Ms. Carr; Ms. Fabbri; Ms. Stone; Mr. Bongiorno; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Pavlick; and Mr. Shuhi.

Also present were: Superintendent Turner; Mr. Fiorillo; Ms. Haggard; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Kubisek; Ms. Murphy; Mr. Ammary; and members of the press and the community.

New Business

- a. Budget Workshop - Board members received outline of possible cuts with Option A 2.5% increase and Option B-1 and B-2 with 2.0% increase.

Superintendent Turner reported: input from Administrators; cuts worked out together; all stay away from student outcome as much as possible.

Mr. Fiorillo reported: PE equipment reduction; athletics decreased by playing 10 games instead of what they play now; computers based on age; will delay another year; climate survey would be done every 2 years; PD requirements covered with reduction; Math reduction in PD; Food Service reduction with Reg. 1 joining consortium; 1 year trial in Food Service; Alarm system reduction during evenings; question of insurance issues with alarm; laminator replacement eliminated; mic system replacement \$20,000 but have \$14,000 so reduction taken; student desks eliminated; crossing guard not necessary at Murphy's; issues with CCD walkers; library usage; drop off on Meadow St.; and health insurance current data does not support reduction.

Board members discussed: issues with athletics and MS sports costs; PE cuts; reimbursements for courses; biannual survey results; need for desks; bring business department up to industry standards for classroom; issues with computers; some teachers have laptops and desktops; desktops are 8 years old; outlet issues for computers; cost of maintaining laptops; against 5 year plan; can delay but won't go away; have 1,600 in district; laptops very old; expending resources to keep them running; not worth it; possible fix to café tables at CS; issues when put tables away; safety issues with students being around tables when upright; tables not appropriate for young students; circular work better; delay is possible but don't lock when upright; issues with insurance if something happens; issues with survey timing; done 2015 last; one done in April; does respond to stakeholders concerns; issues with crossing guard reduction; student do walk to functions; need to make parents aware; need to remember budget is an estimate to run a school system; required to come back and look at different options; come September can be totally different needs; Board of Finance looks at town needs; come back to what is comfortable for town

to cover; being comfortable with budget the way it is; 2.5% increase can be determined later with what is needed or not; if too specific with cuts can come back later if not taken and used elsewhere in the budget; up to BOE to determine where cuts will be; issues with State budget implications; work with 2.5% increase without specifics; issues with public information need to inform community with what we are considering as cuts; public meetings; what administration will bring forward; regulatory rules for Board of Finance not followed; issues with charter; review town finances and determine what town can afford; in line with education needs; bonding knowledge; need to develop level of increase; not up to them to pick increase in budget; issues with insurance covering buildings if alarm not on at night; crossing guard is safety issue; possibly stagger café tables and keep crossing guard; bus does stop at library and covers Meadow St; need for guard on 202 and Woodruff; keep crossing guard can be done; and Board of Finance should support 2.5% increase.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Ms. Carr: to approve the budget as presented with 2.5% increase.

Board members discussed: need for Board of Finance to be more open to discussion with Board members during budget process; and Board of Finance can't be involved in line item discussion.

MOTION carried. Ms. Carr, Ms. Fabbri, Ms. Stone, Mr. Bongiorno, Mr. Clock, Mr. Falcetti, Mr. Shuhi and Mr. Simone voted in the affirmative. Mr. Pavlick voted in the negative. There were no abstentions.

b. Maintenance and Custodial Transfer – Packet distributed.

Mr. Fiorillo reported: letter received on Monday; copy of minutes of Selectmen's meeting; motion to return custodians services and exterior maintenance to Board; issues with not filling positions; exterior maintenance done since 2003 to 2012 and included through this year and done well; no problem with town covering that in the past; issues with funding amount to be returned; \$250,000 savings over 4 years; exterior maintenance costs listed in Selectmen's budget; why funding allocated for the schools and why funding not going back to schools; \$120,000; budgeted in town under Board of Education; want to return contract but not the funding; possible legal issues; double accounting; we are paying for something that they are using; outside maintenance is another position; request from Board to not take back exterior maintenance; input from Board attorney and need to retain money allocated for that.

Board members discussed: cancelled capital for maintenance of building; postponed boilers; how handle capital with school needs; window washing issues; issues with trucks, tractors, plows that are needed; town will return truck; will do snow removal; CS flooring issues; capital funding status; sidewalks issues; 2012 MOU until May; budget for exterior maintenance is \$190,000; cannot accept \$120,000 as proposed but full amount; can counter or accept; possible breach of contract; is Board's responsibility; difference of \$70,000 not acceptable; can do exterior

maintenance if funding is the same amount as used by Selectmen; issues for salaried people to complete exterior maintenance as with the Selectmen; no positions have been filled like John Whalen's; no savings as presented by the Selectmen; short on custodians; issues over past 4 years; can do maintenance if have same funding as Selectmen had; exterior maintenance has worked for 14 years successfully; need to get back the total amount to cover maintenance; unexpended funds go to general fund; Selectmen want transfer July 1st; Board's issues with maintenance need to start sooner than that; issues with punitive remarks from Selectman; Board request was return 180 days which is May 7th; input from attorney; possible file breach of contract; need to work in conjunction with town; did sign contract and so did they; need full amount budgeted; done in good faith; need to fill in back positions; issues with plowing; MOU terminating period; bring back after 180 days; after May 7th no MOU so have to take back maintenance to Board; need letter to Selectman Paul; issues with school needs that were part of Selectmen's line items; boiler work needed; truck issues; need to be transparent; should not take back exterior maintenance; possibly put on hold; need to discuss exterior maintenance at next meeting; need list of ongoing projects, costs; need for reimbursements; effects on 2 employees with outside maintenance; town better at handling outside maintenance; why turn back to Board of Ed; need letter to Selectman; cost to taxpayers greater if BOE takes it on; could hurt people on job; need full disclosure; not good when read things in paper; issues with administrators not included in hiring of custodians for schools; concerns with school environment; accounting for what is being spent; need to laterally transfer positions from Board of Selectmen to Board of Ed; mostly AFSCME positions; between 60,000 to 70,000 dollars; and is right thing to do.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve lateral transfer of facilities maintenance and custodians as presented.

Board of Finance meeting on April 26th where Chair will present budget.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Falcetti, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary