

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING APRIL 16, 2012

Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Faith Leitner, Secretary, Deborah Downie, Alisa Morrison, Craig Esposito and Frank Todisco.

Late Arrival: Kevin Bornstein 7:06 p.m.

Also present were Leanne Masterjoseph, Superintendent of Schools, Ana de Oliveira, Recording Secretary, members of the staff, students and interested citizens.

Gail MacDonald thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and explained that the meeting would focus on the mandated reductions to the 2012-2013 Proposed Budget.

Superintendent's identification of ways to meet Board of Finance's mandated reductions to BOE Budget 2012-2013

Leanne Masterjoseph thanked the Board for the opportunity to discuss on this topic.

Leanne Masterjoseph explained her rationale for asking the community to advocate for restoration of funds from the Board of Finance and described her submission of a document entitled Superintendent's Submission to Achieve Imposed BOF Reductions.

Comments from Citizens

Lauren Vickerman thanked Leanne Masterjoseph for a creative and well thought out presentation and agreed with the proposed additional administrative support.

Gretchen Noonan supported Leanne Masterjoseph's request of retaining the \$156,215 dollars in the proposed budget and asked that everyone show their support at the upcoming public hearing.

Suzanne LoPresto commented on the need for more administrative support between the elementary schools. Suzanne also supported the need for the numeracy support positions.

Michael Freeman praised Leanne Masterjoseph for her recommendations and feels that the town reserve fund should be used to cover the mandated reductions to the proposed budget.

Michael O'Neill commented that sports are critical to the high school experience and feels that athletics should not be part of the reductions to the proposed budget.

Heather Hudson thanked Leanne Masterjoseph for her presentation and spoke of the athletic reduction and feels that athletics contribute to the development of the students. Heather also supported the need for more administrative support between the elementary schools.

Rob Marseglia spoke of his concern of the reduction of the numeracy support positions.

Dave Walsh commented on the athletic reduction and feels that this is a step closer to pay to play.

Greg Wostrel thanked both Leanne Masterjoseph and the Board for their work. Greg commented on the athletic reduction, the value of education and encouraged everyone to show their support at the upcoming public hearing.

Gail thanked everyone for their comments, explained the process for the upcoming public hearing and hoped to see everyone there to show their support on the proposed budget.

Board Discussion

Gail MacDonald reminded the Board members that a vote on the proposed budget does not need to be made at this time. This would occur at a later time.

The Board members discussed the list of Superintendent's submission of possible reductions and other options through which to reallocate the mandated reduction of \$156,215.

Gail MacDonald noted that a budget discussion will be on the agenda for the upcoming regular board meeting.

The following motion was made by Kevin Bornstein and seconded by Craig Esposito.

Motion 1: To adjourn at 8:41 p.m.

Aye: All



Faith Leitner, Board Secretary