

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING MAY 24, 2012

Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Faith Leitner, Deborah Downie, Alisa Morrison, Frank Todisco, and Craig Esposito and Kevin Bornstein.

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

Comments from Citizens

Sue Jones thanked the Board for their feedback and suggestions on the budget and also asked about the CIP plan in relation to the budget reductions.

Rob Marseglia commented on the budget recommended reductions and asked that citizens go out to vote.

Ed Cullen and Natalia Cullen commented on the importance of keeping programs such as "Pfish" at the middle schools.

Budget Discussion

Gail MacDonald asked that Leanne Masterjoseph present her recommended budget reductions.

Leanne Masterjoseph thanked the Board for the opportunity to explain the items which could contribute to finding dollars of required reductions.

Gail MacDonald noted that she has already approached the Board of Finance with possibility of using CIP monies to cover some of the items on the list of recommended reductions. Gail explained that these monies could only be transferred in January; therefore the budget could not be adopted with these particular items.

The Board requested that Gail MacDonald make a formal request to the Board of Finance to reconsider deferring some items on the CIP.

Gail MacDonald opened discussion to the Board on the list of recommended reductions.

The Board asked administration various questions on each recommended reduction. Administration answered the Board's questions.

The Board agreed that the recommended reductions presented will be the list of items moving forward to the June 5th vote. (see attachment)

Appointment of Interim Superintendent

The following motion was made by Kevin Bornstein and seconded by Alisa Morrison.

Motion 1: To offer the position of Interim Superintendent to Dr. Paul Smotas and to have the BOE Chairwoman enter into contract negotiations for that position.

Aye: All

Comments from Citizens

Clark Chapman commented on the need to promote the importance of voting to the community.

Jon Nickerson spoke of the upcoming budget vote and asked the Board for other options in regards to the reductions. Jon commented on the need to communicate to the community as to which steps will be taken if the budget does not pass.

Cindy Nadeau commented on the reduction of out of town buses and tuition.

Steven Potochniak spoke on the recommended reductions presented and suggested that the Board get budget information out to the community via the town and school website. Mr. Potochniak also commented on the paraprofessional supports.

Adam Ogden commented on the increase need of voters, recommended reductions and a better informed Board.

Gustaf Jungnelius commented on the recommended reductions, Magnet School transportation and asked that the Board focus on the students which are the next generation.

The following motion was made by Faith Leitner and seconded by Craig Esposito.

Motion 2: To adjourn at 9:40 p.m.

Aye: All


Faith Leitner, Board Secretary