

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING JANUARY 2, 2013

A combined Board of Education, Board of Finance and Board of Selectman Special Meeting was held at the Stonington Police Station.

Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, called the Board of Education meeting to order at 6:33 p.m., other members present were Faith Leitner, Secretary, Kevin Bornstein, Frank Todisco, Alisa Morrison and Craig Esposito and Deborah Downie.

Board of Finance members present were, Sandy Grimes and John O'Brien.

Absent: Glenn Frishman, Chairman, Bryan Bentz, June Strunk and Dudley Wheeler.

Board of Selectmen members present were, Edward Haberek, Jr., George Crouse and Glee McAnanly.

Also present were Ana deOliveira, Recording Secretary, members of the staff, students and interested citizens.

Gail MacDonald thanked everyone for attending and noted that the meeting would focus on the upcoming budget season process and issues.

General Discussion on Budget Process

Dr. Van Riley gave an overview of the budget process and distributed an outline which touched on issues that are being looked at during this season's budget process. Dr. Riley commented on the following items:

- I. Goals and Strategies
 - a. Proactive
 - b. Issue of contingency funds for emergencies
 - c. Standardization (fire alarms, replacement parts, training)
 - d. Level funding with long range planning (technology replacement)
- II. Structure
 - a. Balance site and district
 - b. Focus on achieving Board goals
 - c. Priorities -look internally before requesting additional funding
 - d. Consider staffing ratios and class size targets
- III. Presentation
 - a. Balance and priorities
 - b. Use Paul's model and Town model-by school and department
- IV. Issues
 - a. Goals
 - i. Achievement gap
 1. Preschool
 2. Full-day Kindergarten
 3. Summer academies (K, 4, 8)
 - ii. Core Curriculum
 - iii. Technology
 - iv. Facilities/Building
 - b. Special Education ongoing deficit
 - c. Future direction for negotiations
 - d. Coordinate efforts with Town
 - i. Relocate transportation facility
 - ii. Share in M/D operations
 - e. Impact of local economy and state funding

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All three Boards exchanged dialogue concerning the above issues.

Other Issues of Interest

The Board of Education members shared discussion on:

- Budget presentation similar to Town
- School security issues
- Building maintenance costs and funding
- Budget deliberations

The Board of Finance members shared discussion on:

- CIP
- Building issues and repair costs associated with CIP
- Long-term budget process and structure
- Full day Kindergarten and early intervention

The Board of Selectman members shared discussion on:

- Collaboration of services between Town and Board of Education
- Technology
- Achievement Gaps
- Community outreach regarding budget issues
- Mental Health services
- Reevaluation

Comments from Citizens

Rob Marseglia congratulated all three Boards for their collaboration. Mr. Marseglia commented on budget presentation, suggested a creation of a voluntary email system to send out budget, mil rate and assessment value information to citizens and State mandates.

Bill Sternberg commented on task force groups, improving committee involvement, math and science curriculum needs.

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

Motion 1: To adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

Aye: All



Faith Leitner, Secretary