

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 17, 2013

Faith Leitner, Board Secretary, called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Kevin Bornstein, Deborah Downie, Craig Esposito and Frank Todisco.

Absent: Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, Alisa Morrison

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

2013-2014 Budget Discussion

Faith Leitner welcomed everyone to the workshop and welcomed citizens' comments after the workshop discussion.

Dr. Riley made available a budget summary handout and an outline of suggested budget items for the Board's consideration. Dr. Riley discussed some of the issues the Board had concerning the budget and had clarifications to those issues.

Dr. Riley also discussed and explained each of the following items for budget consideration:

- SHS average class size current and the proposed class size average of 20.5 for next year.
- SHS individual class sizes and request for sections
- Crew funding and support
- West Broad Street Title I funding shift
- Tests – PSAT and others
- Budget Summary handout
- Fruit and water program at WBS
- Facilitator/Dean to Assistant Principal issue/option
- Middle School request for Summer Academy
- Technology request at PMS

Middle School Principals, Tim Smith and Jenn McCurdy, gave an overview on the following items:

- Summer Academy
 - Funding needed to support two week program
- Transition from elementary to middle school
 - Invite 5th graders before opening day using 8th graders as role models for tour of building and transition time
- Ready, Set, Go program
- Summer Academy program monitoring
- Chromebooks technology request

Board had questions regarding evaluation and progress monitoring of the Summer Academy program, Chromebooks purchase justification as it relates to curriculum and district wide usage.

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Dr. Riley asked the Board for direction on the following items as it pertains to the 2013-14 Budget Proposal:

- Crew funding and support - \$6,000
- Tests – PSAT and others - \$24, 833
- Technology request at PMS - \$20,000
- Facilitator/Dean to Assistant Principal issue/option

Board discussed and asked for clarification on each of the four items. The Board came to a consensus and agreed to add these four items to the 2013-14 Budget Proposal. Dr. Riley will present the 2013-14 Budget Proposal at the January 24 meeting with the above adjustments, keeping budget percentage of increase under 3%.

Comments from Citizens

Sue Jones asked for clarification on Title I funding for teachers, reduction of paraprofessional hours at WBS and PMS, reduction of teachers at PMS and MMS, DMS first grade class sizes and Chromebooks request. Sue asked that this information be available to citizens before the budget vote.

Executive Session

The Board entered into Executive Session at 8:31 p.m.

The following motion was made by Frank Todisco and seconded by Deborah Downie:

Motion 1: To enter into Executive Session to discuss the Director of Special Services.

Aye: All

The Board exited Executive Session at 8:49 p.m.

The following motion was made by Frank Todisco and seconded by Kevin Bornstein:

Motion 2: To Adjourn at 8:49 p.m.

Aye: All

Faith Leitner

Faith Leitner, Board Secretary