

## **STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 7, 2013**

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

Late Arrival: Kevin Bornstein – 7:13 p.m.

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

Gail MacDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the main objective was to hear from the community on the proposed budget and thoughts on how to get the word out about the budget.

Gail MacDonald gave a clarification on one of the items included in the 2013-2014 Proposed Budget. Gail explained that the approximate 2.5% salary increase plus “Step” increases per contracts refers to the teacher contract settlement which came to an overall 2.5%, this increase includes “Step” increase making the bottom line cost to the town a 2.5 % .

### **Comments from Citizens**

Wendy Canty spoke about the full-day kindergarten as it relates to State requirements, staffing, class sizes and budget funding and asked that information on class sizes be posted on the SPS website. Ms. Canty also commented on funding of PSAT/SAT/AP tests and the Chromebook Pilot program cost. Ms. Canty requested that the timeline on the budget process be posted on the SPS website.

Cindy Nadeau commented on funding of busses for unified sporting events for the middle schools. Ms. Nadeau proposed that busing for Unified Sports at the middle school be fully funded. Ms. Nadeau also believes that the Unified Sports program should be available at the high school level.

Mike O’Neil applauded and thanked Dr. Riley and the Board for their consideration on adding funding for transportation for the crew team in the proposed budget.

Steve Small commented on the proposed staffing, average class sizes at the high school, and funding of PSAT/SAT/AP tests.

### **2013-2014 Budget Workshop Discussion**

Dr. Riley had available handouts that highlighted the items that impacted the 2013-14 Proposed Budget along with the 2013-14 Proposed Budget account summary.

Dr. Riley and the Board answered the citizen’s questions on the following:

- Full-day Kindergarten
- Class sizes
- PSAT/SAT/AP test funding
- Timeline of the budget process
- Unified Sports bus funding/high school program

Gail MacDonald went over the schedule of upcoming budget meetings, which are as follows:

- February 14 BOE to adopt 2013-14 Proposed Budget
- March 6 BOE budget presentation to BOF
- Budget Deliberations, March 13, 20 and 27 at Police Station at 7 p.m.
- Town and school budget public hearing April 8 at SHS at 7 p.m.

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Gail MacDonald asked that the Board start preparing for their presentation of the 2013-14 Proposed Budget for the BOF.

Faith Leitner reminded everyone of the SEF Annual Education Celebration on February 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mystic Aquarium and noted that tickets can be purchased at the door.

Deb Downie shared that on Sunday, February 10, the first of several meet and greets will be held at Mr. John and Teresa Prue's residence, 59 River Crest Drive in Pawcatuck. The BOE, BOF members, First Selectman and Building Committee members will be available to answer questions.

The following motion was made by Faith Leitner and seconded by Kevin Bornstein:

**Motion 1: To Adjourn at 7:47 p.m.**

**Aye: All**



Faith Leitner, Board Secretary