

March 6, 2013

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting on this date at the Police Department meeting room. Members present were Glenn Frishman, Chairman; John O'Brien, Secretary; Dudley Wheeler; John O'Brien, Bryan Bentz; Sandy Grimes and June Strunk. Also present Maryanna Stevens, Director of Finance; Board of Selectmen, Board of Education members, SPS and Town staff and residents.

Mr. Frishman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### **Budget Hearings FY 2013-2014**

**BOE** – Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman spoke stating that the Board of Education at the Board of Finance' request presented a new more detailed budget with a more precise format. The format is to clarify expenditures by department and school. The budget carries a 2.97 percent increase built from a zero base. She added that the budget includes a 2.5 percent increase in wages and benefits negotiated with the teachers. These negotiations resulted in an insurance shift that should provide significant savings for taxpayers in upcoming years. Full-day kindergarten is included as new programming. The budget includes reduced athletic fields expenditures because of the agreement with the Town and the field renovation project that allowed restoration of previously cut athletic programs. Following the tragedy in Newton, some security upgrades have been implemented, a March 14 meeting is planned with the Police Department to review security needs. Mr. Frishman and several members of the Board complimented the BOE on the budget presentation.

At this time, Mr. Frishman asked the members if they had any questions. Mr. Grimes asked if Superintendent of Schools Dr. Van Riley would please go over the budget page by page. Dr. Riley requested a contingency fund for unexpected expenses that occur after the budget has passed. He stated that the district recommends that the Memorandum of Understanding re: BOE Retirement Funds be modified to allow the District to use current year budgeted funds in the 52500 line item for emergency purposes during each budget year. Dr. Riley addressed the Board goals for 2012-13; District accomplishments and challenges for 2013-14. Of these challenges are unfunded mandates, such as improved student achievement through the Common Core State Standard. Also to update current technology through a five-year replacement plan, closing achievement gap for socio-economically disadvantaged students, increased number of evaluators to meet new State required evaluation program guidelines, expansion of West Vine Street School to include students attending West Broad Street School. Assistant Superintendent Nikki Gullickson addressed the centralization of costs, particularly for curriculum and instruction. Alison VanEtten was introduced as the

new Director of Special Services. Members also questioned and discussed tuition, bus transportation, out placed students, the CAD program and various staff changes.

Members then addressed the Board of Education Capital Improvements. They discussed the relocation of the transportation depot, which Bill King; SPS Business Manager stated would result in a savings of \$50,000 a year. Dr. Riley stated that the line item Student Information System could be removed from the budget.

**Director of Finance** – Mrs. Stevens provided for the members revenue projections. Mr. Frishman asked if Davis Standard had filed with the Assessor's office. Mrs. Stevens replied that yes but they are actually required to file with the State. Mrs. Stevens also provided at Mr. O'Brien's request a history of the Fund balance, 07/08 to current. Mr. Frishman stated that since 1959 the Grand List has never gone down until now.

Mrs. Stevens said that she would have mil rate scenarios for the deliberations. She asked the members if they would like her to use the as filed number with regard to Davis Standard. Members said yes.


**New Business** – Nothing to report.

**Subcommittee reports** – Mr. Grimes reported that the Athletic Fields turf would be going out to bid Friday.

**Correspondence** – None

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Wheeler made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John O'Brien  
Secretary

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