

Board of Education Special Meeting

May 31, 2016 7:00 PM

PVMS Library

1. Call to Order

Jan Clancy; Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7PM. Other members present: Deborah Burke-Grabarek, Charles Raymond and Sean Nugent. Dan Harris, Cindy Luty and Karin Davis were absent. Also present: Dr. John Welch; Superintendent, John Spang; Director of Finance and Gloria Homiski; Recording Secretary. Audience: Melissa Lennon, Beth Bonosconi, Sam Chinigo, Jill Keith and Susan Strader.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

None

4. New Business: Discussion and Votes Required

FY17 Budget Discussion:

Jan Clancy called the meeting to discuss the \$156,000 cut that was imposed by the BOF.

Sean Nugent recommended that the Board begin by removing increases from all line items showing increases. He stated that would total approximately \$104,000. The additional \$50,000 would need to come from programs, or increased class sizes.

John Spang explained that the budget created in November is basically the current year's budget plus what it will cost to run the same things next year.

Jan Clancy reminded the Board that a third teacher will be retiring at the end of the year and that the Transportation Secretary may be leaving. She also suggested cutting things such as the lawn care line item rather than programs for students.

Jan also stated that she believes that the general public wants the following: part-time Superintendent, Building Consolidation, one Principal; none of which could be instituted as early as FY17.

Deborah Burke-Grabarek asked if Preston could offer half time preK to save money. Dr. Welch explained that with the forecasted PreK enrollment, some regular education students would not be able to enroll if we only offered a half time program.

Jan Clancy talked about the possibility of offering Spanish to only grades 4-8 until the budget can once again sustain our entire population.

Charles Raymond asked if we could do something with our copier/printer leases in order to save money. John Spang explained that we have one more year on our current contract.

This discussion will continue at the next Regular Meeting of the BOE on June 13th. At that time, Dr. Welch will also make a recommendation.

Melissa Lennon: She stated that Griswold uses a Program Budgeting format to present their budget. All programs are priced out separately. Ex: Art; teacher salary, benefits, supplies, dues etc. = total cost of Art.

John Spang explained that we do not have the necessary codes to budget in this manner at this time.

Beth Bonosconi: She hopes that student programs are not cut. She asked that the BOE not see Universal PreK as an easy cut. She has worked in PK for 8 years. Today, two 4 year olds read aloud to her. She stated that one simply cannot put a price on something like that.

Susan Strader: She explained that there has been a spending freeze imposed for much of this current school year. Therefore, it would be very difficult to impose a zero increase on all line items for next year. She also stated that "extra programs" bring enrichment to children and data supports that such enrichment increases student productivity and success.

5. Adjournment

Moved, to adjourn the meeting at 7:30PM. Clancy/Burke-Grabarek. Unanimous. Motion Carries.