Chairman Mark Holden called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:54 p.m.

Roll Call:
John Francino-Quinn
Mark Holden, Chairman
Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary (excused)
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman (excused)
Win Oppel (via Skype)
James Orazietti (via Skype)
Mike Pacowta (excused)
Timothy Walsh
Kathleen Yolish (excused)

Quorum - 5 present; 4 absent

Board of Education Administration present:
Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr
Finance Director, Allan Cameron
Technology Director, Dana Urban

(1 tape on file in City/Town Clerk’s office)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Timothy Walsh moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 5-0; motion carried unanimously.

The Superintendent’s recommended 2013-2014 Budget Estimate, which was approved at the December 19, 2012 Board of Education Regular Meeting, included place holders for health insurance and transportation. It was explained that one change is a reduction in cost of medical insurance of $403,747 (differential on the 10% place holder) by switching to the state-run program; Anthem has proposed 17.5% renewal rate. In addition, Chairman Holden said an alternative system for the transportation contract is being considered, which would involve the City’s leasing all-propane buses. Lengthy discussion continued on these topics.

Jay Francino-Quinn moved for the Board to approve revisions to its recommended Operating Budget estimate for 2013-2014 totaling minus $403,737, resulting in a revised total budget of $66,836,326; seconded by Timothy Walsh; motion carried unanimously.
Timothy Walsh moved for the Board to empower the Superintendent or his designee to take the necessary steps to negotiate a Student Transportation contract with All Star Transportation, which may include, but are not limited to, seeking a bid waiver from the Board of Aldermen, if appropriate; seconded by James Orazietti and Win Oppel; motion carried unanimously.

The Six-Year Capital Outlay budget was reviewed and numerous questions were addressed.

Win Oppel moved for the Board to approve the Six Year Capital Outlay Budget, as recommended; seconded by Timothy Walsh; motion carried unanimously.

James Orazietti moved to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to accept BIC Corporation’s donation of backpacks and school supplies on behalf of Sunnyside School as part of the company’s partnership with the Adopt a Classroom program; seconded by Win Oppel; motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Holden expressed appreciation to Dana Urban for facilitating the technology required to Skype for this meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Diane Luther
Diane Luther
Recording Secretary – Board of Education
February 15, 2013