Chairman Kathy Yolish called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:35 p.m.

Roll Call:

John Fitzgerald                      James Orazietti, Vice Chair
Amanda Kilmartin (excused)          Carl Rizzo
Kate Kutash                         Amy Romano, Secretary
Diana Meyer                          Kathleen Yolish, Chair
Patti Moonan

Quorum: 8 present; 1 absent

Board of Education Administration present: Dr. Christopher Clouet, Superintendent of Schools; Kenneth Saranich, Assistant Superintendent; Carole Pannozzo, Human Resources Director; Finance Director, Rick Belden

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda
Kate Kutash moved to approve the agenda; motion seconded by Carl Rizzo and approved unanimously by those present.

Public Hearing
No one from the public spoke.

Review Budget Requests
Superintendent Clouet stated that this meeting would be a review of elementary school requests and some of the recommendations and items we are considering, and then we will enter into a dialogue as part of this process, which will end in the next couple weeks. He said while board members are aware, the process is to make sure we are providing our students with what they need in this particular context we are in. The kind of global society that is evolving; the kind of international challenges and opportunities our kids will face; the rapid changes in technology that are impacting almost every level of our lives; and the notion of surveillance capitalism is something that’s new. Clearly, the 25% goal is something he’s hopeful everyone on the board and community can agree to. He said we should be in the top 25%, as measured by SBAC and SAT scores. We could be there, but not if we are reducing the resources that we are provided with; things our neighboring districts have, such as art and music, which later on in life could help students to think differently about things and come up with solutions.
Rick Belden provided a handout of his Budget Presentation - Elementary Schools Review (attached). He said this year’s budget has been designed to be more reader friendly. A thorough review followed with discussion throughout and numerous questions from board members.

Mrs. Yolish said additional questions should be sent to Superintendent Clouet and Rick Belden.

**Adjournment**
Kathy Yolish adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

*Diane Luther*
Secretary to Board of Education
January 29, 2020