Chairman Mark Holden called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:16 p.m.

Roll Call:
Mark Holden, Chairman
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman
Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary
Win Oppel (absent)
Kathleen Yolish (excused)

John Francino-Quinn (absent)
Faith Hack
Kate Kutash
Timothy Walsh (absent)

Quorum – 5 present; 4 absent

Board of Education Administration present:
Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr
Finance Director, Dominic Barone
Human Resources Director, Carole Pannozzo

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Kate Kutash; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Holden stated the Public Hearing on the 2015-16 budget will begin with a brief overview from Superintendent Burr followed by remarks from the general public.

Freeman Burr gave a PowerPoint presentation and discussed the revisions made to the budget recommendation since the board meeting held last week. At that time, the recommendation was 6.4%. The following adjustments were made to the Rollover:

- Benefits – reduced by 50% from $800,000 to $400,000
- Special Education Transportation – reduced by $50,000
- Salaries – forecasting a conservative estimate for teacher retirements and potentially 2 retirements in Maintenance & Operations Department, filling only 1 at about $90,000 savings. Adjustment was made to include 3 teacher reductions at elementary level due to enrollment.

After recalculating, the Rollover changes to $2,462,115 (3.6%). Mr. Burr stated the only changes made to Improvements included adding 2 tutors at ESS and 1 additional full-time teaching position at BHS. Mr. Burr reviewed each of the recommended Improvements, totaling $951,600. The starting budget of $68,636,318 plus the Rollover and Improvements brings the total budget request to $72,050,033 or 4.974%, significantly lower than 6.4% discussed last week.

There were no questions from the board.
Chairman Holden asked if anyone from the public wished to address the board and no one came forward.

Mr. Holden said there may be another meeting to make some minor tweaks if necessary before sending the final budget to the Mayor. There was consensus to meet again on Tuesday, February 10.

Arlene Liscinsky encouraged parents in the audience to pass on information, and any questions or ideas can be emailed to the board or Superintendent Burr. She commented that board members would be happy to go to individual schools to discuss the budget. Mr. Burr stated the budget book and letter will go to the City on February 13.

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Diane Luther
Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
February 10, 2015