Chairman Mark Holden called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:06 p.m.

Roll Call:
Mark Holden, Chairman  
John Francino-Quinn (absent)  
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman  
Faith Hack  
Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary  
Kate Kutash  
Win Oppel (via Skype)  
Timothy Walsh (absent)  
Kathleen Yolish

Quorum – 7 present; 2 absent

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

Also present: Sara Legister, UConn Executive Leadership Program Intern

(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 Faith Hack; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Holden stated the purpose of the meeting is a continuation of the budget building process. He stated his belief that it would be in the best interest of the board to reduce the requested amount of 5.45% as much as possible, with a target range of 4.5% to 4.75%. He noted that other districts’ requests are below us but are starting from a healthier place with available reserve funds. There was lengthy discussion of staffing requests and board members indicated their level of support for keeping each request. Consensus was to include all requests and to opt for Administrative Support (Teacher Leaders, Administrative Interns, CES/CAS Administrator Per Diem Support) at estimated cost of $60,000 versus 4 Assistant Principals at estimated cost of $600,000. In addition, after much discussion, the request for TESOL Teacher was not supported; but, if necessary, money would have to be found. The request for Teacher Interns was discussed, and it was suggested that $110,000 belongs in the Rollover for substitutes and $10,000 in Program Improvement. There was consensus for the Technology/FF&E aldermanic bonding request.

Win Oppel suggested a change to the presentation by taking back the cost of Propane AutoGas/Heating Fuel from the City and adding $573,068 to the rollover, which would reflect a true number of 4.7%. He said it could be explained during the presentation that the number would go down if the City assumes that cost. Others were in agreement.
There was general discussion. Mark Holden reiterated his belief that it would be in our best interest to try to do some of the cutting now rather than later. There was consensus to present the request of 6.4% for discussion at the public hearing next week.

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Diane Luther

Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
January 30, 2015