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 (excused)
Kathleen Yolish
John Francino-Quinn (excused)
Faith Hack
Kate Kutash
Timothy Walsh (excused)

Quorum – 6 present; 3 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

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Kate Kutash; motion passed unanimously.

The purpose of the meeting was a continuation of the budget building process. No votes were taken.

Superintendent Burr gave an overview of a condensed presentation of 2015-16 Proposed Budget Estimate that shows where the board potentially could lower the rollover and includes creative ways to deal with requests for administrative support, specifically math specialists for elementary schools that are most in need of support. Also included is an alternative way to fund technology and furniture, fixtures and equipment. Mr. Burr said the State is prepared to offer another technology grant.

Highlights of the discussion were the following:

- Recommending in rollover budget to take back textbooks, equipment and replacement equipment ($500,000) and ask that the City assume Propane AutoGas and heating fuel projected for next year. The rollover is reduced to $71,227,234 (4.03%).

- Discussed potential offset savings of $205,000 plus health savings reserve of $212,000, totaling $417,000.

- School Sites and Department requests totaling $946,369 were reviewed. Mr. Burr stated due to space limitations at Long Hill, the Pre-K program will be moved to Mohegan. He noted the
makeup of the current Pre-K program is 70-75% disabled and 25-30% non-disabled peers with no increase anticipated next year. While research shows the ideal mix to be 50/50 or 40/60, the program will not be expanded to meet recommended guidelines due to cost concerns. The recommendation to add 8 teacher interns is expected to help offset substitute costs. There was discussion of Technology Department staff needs and Technology Integrator positions, as well as assistant principal requests/evaluation support options and math specialists – Title I/IIA funding option.

- Total Request 2015-16 School Sites & Departments is $72,173,603 (5.4%).
- Reviewed maintenance items totaling $83,400 and capital requests 2014-15 totaling $10,700.
- Mr. Burr discussed technology and furniture, fixtures and equipment needs, which total $1,010,595 and will be an aldermanic bonding request.

Superintendent Burr stated some adjustments will be made to the presentation and copies will be emailed to board members.

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Diane Luther
Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
January 16, 2015