Chairman Kathy Yolish called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:34 p.m.

Roll Call:
John Fitzgerald
Amanda Kilmartin
Kate Kutash
Diana Meyer (arrived 5:37)
Patti Moonan

James Orazietti, Vice Chair
Carl Rizzo
Amy Romano, Secretary
Kathleen Yolish, Chair

Full Quorum

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

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda
James Orazietti moved to add to the agenda an executive session following the budget workshop for the purpose of discussing a security matter relative to COVID-19; motion seconded by Carl Rizzo and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the amended agenda; motion seconded by Carl Rizzo and passed unanimously.

Discussion of Consensus Budget
Dr. Beth Smith led a lengthy discussion of the budget. She referred to a document of line item requests, which is a compilation of ideas from Mandy Kilmartin and Amy Romano, and stressed the importance of reviewing and prioritizing the capital requests put together by John Calhoun and Rick Belden, with input from Dan Divito on the technology side, all based on multi-year plans. Dr. Smith recommended adding to the 2.98% consensus budget one salaried position and asked the board to prioritize the initial list of salaried positions to find cost savings through retirements and resignations. She explained there may be some flexibility when replacing a departing employee with a lower salaried person. There may also be some cost saving measures as we anticipate receiving recommendations from C.E.S., following their site visits to our schools to look at our special education programs. Dr. Smith said creative ways to fund positions need to be found, including possible grant opportunities. She said her first priority is to hire a PreK teacher, which is an extreme need, and secondly to address class size. There was discussion about how service to special education students has changed over the years, as well as ESSA and high school graduation requirements mandated by the state. General discussion ensued.
Dr. Smith stated the current 2.98% budget does not include any revenue for PreK tuition, and a decision needs to be made this evening in order to notify the community before typical peers apply to private establishments. Dr. Smith said she is a strong proponent of adding money into the budget for curriculum revision. She explained curriculum revision as not just writing the content of curriculum, but is so much more. It involves looking at the resources in the programs that are being used, not just in the academic areas, but also in support services where there is curriculum in counseling and support services area. It is looking at content, programs, instructional strategies and methods, how we assess student learning, and the resources we need. It is also aligning us to the mandated state standards and making sure that it is written in the appropriate format that the state is requesting. Curriculum revision is integral and necessary in this district. Dr. Smith said her recommendation for additions to the budget is the one salaried staff member and the monies for curriculum writing.

After lengthy general discussion, the following motions were presented:

Kate Kutash moved to approve the previous consensus budget with the addition of $90,000 for curriculum writing and one salaried position, with the understanding we will not charge for PreK tuition; motion seconded by Carl Rizzo. Discussion. *(Note: Tape 1; Side B at 7:02)* Motion passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the 2020-2021 technology capital plan, equipment capital plan and facilities capital plan as provided in the consensus budget package; motion seconded by Carl Rizzo and passed unanimously.

*(Board recessed at 7:09 and reconvened at 7:17)*

**Executive Session**
Kate Kutash moved to go into Executive Session at 7:17 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a security matter relative to COVID-19 and further moved that Carole Pannozzo and Kenneth Saranich participate in the Executive Session; motion seconded by John Fitzgerald and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to leave Executive Session at 7:48 p.m.; motion seconded by Amanda Kilmartin and passed unanimously.

Mrs. Yolish announced no votes were taken during Executive Session and adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

**Diane Luther**
Secretary to Board of Education
March 16, 2020