Chairman Mark Holden called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:42 p.m.

Roll Call:
Mark Holden, Chairman
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman
Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary
David Gioiello
Faith Hack
Kate Kutash
Win Oppel (Excused)
Darlisa Ritter
Kathleen Yolish

Quorum 8 present; 1 absent

Board of Education Administration present: Superintendent of Schools, Christopher Clouet; Assistant Superintendent, Lorraine Rossner; 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; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously._

Chairman Mark Holden asked board members to be succinct with their questions, due to weather concerns.

Superintendent Clouet said this will be a follow up to the January 6 meeting, which was a spirited and fruitful discussion about personnel requests from administrators and how they might fit into the budget we are working on with the board and City officials. Three scenarios will be presented for discussion. One includes the core mandates (programs required by state law), including some of the enhancements, and the remaining two scenarios are pared-down versions. This meeting is for discussion only, and no action is required. He assured the board that he and all of his administrative team are listening carefully to their comments for consideration when crafting the Superintendent’s budget recommendation to the board. Dominic Barone emphasized the scenarios do not reflect a budget request and nothing has been finalized.

The three options with accompanying detail were presented and discussed.
Scenario 1 – 4.67% increase of $3,243,822
Core requirements include:
   6 SPED Teachers
   2 TESOL Teachers
   1 Speech, Language Pathologist
   .50 Social Worker
   1 Secretary (Facilities)
   5 SPED Tutors

Enhancements include:
   2 Assistant Principals
   1.6 Library Media Specialists
   1 Secretary (Curriculum)
   2 Technology Personnel

Mark Holden stated this is $147,000 less than last year’s request which was not well received. While he agrees with the requests as being reasonable and prudent, he does not think they are realistic.

Scenario 2 – 4.30% increase of $2,986,340
Core requirements include:
   6 SPED Teachers
   2 TESOL Teachers
   1 Speech, Language Pathologist
   .50 Social Worker
   1 Secretary (Facilities)
   5 SPED Tutors

Enhancements include:
   1.6 Library Media Specialists
   1 Secretary (Curriculum)
   2 Technology Personnel

(The 2 Assistant Principal requests were not included.)

Scenario 3 – 3.71% increase of $2,575,885
Core requirements include:
   6 SPED Teachers
   2 TESOL Teachers
   1 Speech, Language Pathologist
   .50 Social Worker
   1 Secretary (Facilities)
   5 SPED Tutors

No enhancements included.

(Note: Tape 1; Side B – 6:43 p.m.)
Following much discussion, consensus was to have Superintendent Clouet and Dominic Barone review options and bring to the board a menu of items for cutting $500,000 from the budget with a minimal impact on the quality of education.

Discussion will continue at a Special Meeting of the Board at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 20, following the meeting of the Finance Committee.

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Diane Luther
Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
January 20, 2016