

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BUDGET WORKSHOP
MARCH 24, 2010

Present: Susan Bransfield, Carl Chudzik, Mark Finkelstein, Brian Flood
And Kathleen Richards

Absent: John Anderson and Sharon Peters

Also Present: Dr. Sally Doyen, Superintendent of Schools; Paul Bengston, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds; Board of Education members Andrea Alfano, Jenny Lohmeyer, Christopher Phelps, MaryAnne Rode and Rosemary Woitowitz

The budget workshop was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield.

Mark Finkelstein disclosed that his wife works for the consortium and he asked the members of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education if his participation in the meeting would be a conflict of interest. No one took issue with his being present.

Dr. Sally Doyen highlighted the proposed Board of Education budget.

The AARA stimulus grant money will be split between this year and next year. This money will pay for a portion of special education staffing and for materials for speech and language services. The Title I funding will pay for one half of a certified reading position. The grant money equates to 3.5 positions. The town will not have this money in 2011-2012.

Paul Bengston explained the improvements to be made to the Gildersleeve driveway which will allow for a student dropoff area that will not interfere with the buses. The work will be done by town staff.

Asbestos removal at Gildersleeve was recommended but not included in the budget. This work will be completed with funding from the Maintenance Fund. The Maintenance Fund will also be used to seal the cracks in the High School track.

Repair of the Brownstone Intermediate School roof was recommended but not included in the proposed budget. The roof has been inspected by a contractor who has indicated that work needs to be done.

Mr. Finkelstein commented that the town employees agreed to a zero increase last year and he questioned if the Board of Education bargaining units were asked to consider a zero increase. Mr. Phelps stated that the Board of Education was in a position to balance their budget without having to re-open contracts. Dr. Doyen commented that the existing contracts have significant concessions in the health insurance area. She stated that the Board of

Education has talked about a variety of options of givebacks, but it would have to be for something very specific.

Mr. Finkelstein asked if the town has to stay with Anthem as its health insurance carrier. Mr. Robinson stated that the town has gone out to bid for the past few years.

Mr. Finkelstein asked about the difference between the ACT and EBCE programs. Dr. Doyen stated that there isn't much difference between the two. The ACT program has a stronger academic structure and there are currently 15 students in the program. There are approximately 20 students in the Water and People course and 60 students in Project Lead the Way.

Mr. Finkelstein noted that the students with disabilities has gone down but there is an increase in Purchase Services. Dr. Doyen stated that Purchase Services also works for students without disabilities.

The Kids Blast Program and Youth Services Program was discussed. A concern was noted about the town funding the deficit for child care services. Mrs. Bransfield stated that she was asked whether the Board of Education could take over the running of the programs since the programs service the students. Dr. Doyen stated that the programs would have to cover the charge for the staffing and she didn't feel that this would be a cost savings.

Motion was made by Kathleen Richards and seconded by Brian Flood to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Darna
Recording Clerk