

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BUDGET WORKSHOP
MARCH 25, 2009

Present: John Anderson, Susan Bransfield, Carl Chudzik, Mark Finkelstein,
Brian Flood, Sharon Peters and Kathleen Richards

The budget workshop was called to order at 700 p.m. by First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board of Education Chairman Chris Phelps stated that the Board of Education formally asked the Superintendent to talk to the unions regarding possible contract concessions.

Dr. Sally Doyen, Superintendent of Schools, reviewed the recommended Board of Education budget. A new "People and Water" course was recently introduced at the High School in conjunction with the Portland Water Department and the Department of Environmental Protection which will provide students with a curriculum that will lead to a certification in small water operator licensing. Portland will be completely accredited for the "Project Lead the Way" program which will give students in the program an opportunity to earn up to 10 college credits in engineering and technology. A new course will be added at the High School next focusing on student leadership.

Staffing has been reduced by 18 positions over the past four years and four positions have been hired back.

A contract was negotiated with Nichols Bus Company for next year at a zero percent increase and a van will be cut for half of the year.

Electricity usage has decreased and prices for heating oil and diesel were locked in at a good price.

The projected increase of 7.85% for health insurance has been reduced to 2.2%. Employee portions have increased in all bargaining groups which has made a large difference.

Mr. Finkelstein asked how much of the 5.1% increase in certified salaries relates to contractual obligations. Dr. Doyen stated that the figure includes \$52,000 for partial positions; the remainder is contract.

Mr. Finkelstein questioned the typical stipend for a varsity coach. Dr. Doyen stated that the average price is \$3,000 to \$5,000, depending upon the sport.

Mr. Finkelstein questioned the difference between a substitute salary and a temporary salary. Dr. Doyen stated that temporary salaries pertain to summer custodial help and summer secretarial time for the elementary schools.

Mr. Finkelstein questioned the overtime salaries. Dr. Doyen stated that this is primarily for the custodians to do snowplowing and for covering for absences.

Mr. Finkelstein questioned the expansion of the EBCE program. Dr. Doyen stated that there are a group of students who have been in a two-year technical program and these students will be moved to the EBCE program that will focus on skills in four technical areas.

Mrs. Richards questioned the reduction in postage. Dr. Doyen stated that the schools are doing more emailing.

Paul Maintenance commented that a lot of work repair work had been done last summer at Brownstone Intermediate School. Additional work to the roof needs to be done due to trapped water under the roof. Mr. Bengston stated that this request is not in the budget, but he felt that the work needs to be done. Mr. Bengston will be looking at possibly doing work on the carpeting in the modular classrooms at Valley View. Some asbestos work will also be done at Valley View.

Mr. Flood asked if there has been discussion on consolidating schools. Mr. Phelps stated that the Board of Education will be doing an assessment of all the facilities, particularly Valley View and Brownstone Intermediate School. There has been discussion about moving 6th grade to the High School/Middle School complex and 5th grade to Gildersleeve School.

Motion was made by John Anderson and seconded by Brian Flood to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Darna
Recording Clerk