

**NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
FIRST - BUDGET WORKSHOP 2012-2013
January 25, 2012**

The first budget workshop for the 2012-2013 school year was held on January 25, 2012 at Stanley T. Williams School, Board of Education meeting room at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

CHAIRWOMAN ONOFRIO:	PRESENT
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:	PRESENT
SECRETARY MCMAHON:	PRESENT
ED CORRADINO:	PRESENT
ANTHONY FERRAILOLO:	PRESENT
LOU PATERNOSTER:	PRESENT

I. Visitors

Superintendent of Schools:	Scott Schoonmaker
Director of Business / Personnel:	Donald Winnicki
Director of Curriculum / Instruction:	Sara Querfeld
Director of Special Services:	Suzanne Wright
Principal:	Alan Davis, NBIS Shawn Parkhurst, JHS

Carter Welch	Joe Tenczar	T.J. McMahon
Rose Angeloni	Michael Doody	Anthony Candelora, Mayor
Christine Cermola	Joan Candelora	
Richard Brannigan, Town Manager		

II. 2012-2013 Operating Budget

Scott Schoonmaker stated that after a presentation by Donald Winnicki Board members would have a chance to ask any questions they had. If they had more questions after the Board meeting, they could call him or Donald Winnicki at Central Office at any time.

Donald Winnicki stated that our zero –growth budget requires an increase of 4.79% over the 2011-2012 budget. This includes using 50% of the Jobs Bill money in September 2012. The Superintendent is requesting 4.58%, which also includes the elimination of one certified

January 25, 2012

position. The 2011-2012 budget represented a zero percent increase over 2010-2011 after using the Jobs Bill grant to offset expenditures.

Donald Winnicki remarked that there are five major cost increases which contribute to this overall request.

- Contractual changes in teachers' contract for a 1.01% increase.
- Increase of 0.81% needed to fund teachers' salaries paid by the Jobs Bill in 2011-2012.
- Increase of 1.81% needed for outside placements, largely special education and salaries for special education paraprofessionals that exceed the two federal IDEA grants.
- Increase of 0.73% is required for transportation including basic contractual increases, the impact of diesel at \$4.00 per gallon, van aides, non-contract transportation services and life skills program costs.
- Increase of 0.43% is needed to cover fuel oil at \$4.00 per gallon.

He remarked that the 2012-2013 request amounted to \$30,732,874 or an increase of \$1,538,754 which offset by the Jobs Bill fund of \$237,307, amount to the requested increase of 4.58%.

Donald Winnicki spoke on the Budget History from 2004-2005 through 2011-2012.

Mr. Winnicki also mentioned the per-pupil expenditure, stating that of 169 school districts, North Branford is 138 on the list.

Donald Winnicki also remarked on fixed costs, diesel oil, healthcare, transportation, etc.

Anthony Ferraiolo asked if the bus contract was going to be put out to bid this year.

David McMahon questioned if North Branford has looked into Hybrid buses.

Donald Winnicki remarked that this has not been discussed and if we go out to bid it will most likely be discussed.

Shannon Miscio also remarked that she felt the bus contract should be put out to bid.

January 25, 2012

Mr. Ferraiolo stated that we should reevaluate the bus contract and look at all ways to reevaluate the costs.

Ed Corradino questioned if there would be a savings if the cost of diesel fuel went down.

Mr. Winnicki stated that the \$4.00 figure was an estimate. We pay for diesel fuel when our contract is locked in. Usually we have a one year contract for diesel fuel.

Donald Winnicki stated he had a concern that when we go out to bid it is usually our obligation to choose the lowest bidder. The lowest bidder is not always the most responsible.

Shannon Miscio remarked that we should write our own specs; 5 year experienced drivers, age of buses, etc. We do not want to be obligated to any company just because they are the cheapest.

Suzanne Wright spoke on Special Education and all the rules and regulations we are obligated to follow. She mentioned that many circumstances cannot be planned for as some students move into the district after the budget is finalized or during the summer. She also remarked that we cannot plan on how many students the State places in North Branford foster homes.

Shawn Parkhurst spoke on the need for full-time kindergarten. He mentioned that kindergarten students, at this time, have two and one-half hours of instructional time. There is no time for recess, social interaction, story-time, etc.

Sara Querfeld spoke on the Common Core State Standards for kindergarten students.

In math, kindergarten students will be expected to know number names and count sequence, understand addition and subtraction, understand and compare measures, identify and describe shapes, solve number problems, etc.

In language arts, they will be expected to ask and answer questions in a text, ask and answer questions about unknown words, engage in group reading activities, etc.

Lou Paternoster remarked that after his meeting with Sara Querfeld, he is a true believer in full-day kindergarten and stated that these children are our future.

Ed Corradino stated that he would also like to see a full-day kindergarten and Shannon Miscio also stated she is in support of full-day for kindergarten.

Anthony Ferraiolo questioned if full-day kindergarten is mandated.

January 25, 2012

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated not at this time but he feels it will be mandated in the very near future.

Shannon Miscio remarked that she and many of the Board members would like to take a field trip to the kindergarten classes.

Anthony Ferraiolo asked if Donald Winnicki could get him an athletic budget breakdown for all sports by the next workshop,

Mr. Winnicki stated he would.

Shannon Miscio remarked that she would like to add another date for a third workshop and Board members agreed on February 9, 2012 at Stanley T. Williams School at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: Moved by David McMahon and seconded by Ed Corradino to adjourn this Board of Education meeting at 9:35 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Ardine
Account Clerk