

February 24, 2009

**NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
February 24, 2009**

The third budget workshop of the North Branford Board of Education was held on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 5:10 p.m. at Totoket Valley Elementary School Library Media Center. The following members attended:

BOARD CHAIR:	DEBORAH PRUNIER
BOARD VICE-CHAIR:	MARCEY ONOFRIO
BOARD SECRETARY:	NANCY LAPPIE
BOARD MEMBERS:	JOHN BOZZUTO, JR DR. CHRISTOPHER MANNA BONNIE SYMANSKY
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:	SCOTT SCHOONMAKER

I. Visitors

Director of Business / Personnel:	Donald Winnicki
Director of Operations:	William Choti

Deborah Prunier asked if we had any additional information regarding the budget request.

Scott Schoonmaker stated that he had met with Paul Calamita, and went through the budget, sharing ideas and thoughts. We also met with Richard Branigan last week, looking at this year as well as next year. Our fuel cost estimates of \$2.50 are considerably higher than the Town. We are also looking at the IDEA shortfall. We were at 3.66%, of which 3.23% is fixed. With these adjustments, the request is 2.95% of which 2.52% is fixed.

Christopher Manna asked about retirements.

Deborah Prunier said that with the economy, may be less. She reiterated that nothing has been eliminated from the original request.

Don Winnicki stated that we reduced the price of diesel from \$2.50 to \$2.29 and heating oil from \$2.50 to \$2.10, as well as reducing heating oil consumption by 16,000 gallons.

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Bonnie Symansky asked how we were reducing fuel consumption.

Don Winnicki stated this is an estimate based on a longer historical average and a change at the middle school. Right now, we do not have history on the middle school, but it is a dual-fuel system and between the natural gas and heating oil, at 5,000 gallons less, I hope to be able to cover the total heating cost.

Discussion ensued about the boilers at the high school. There is no money in the budget to replace high school boilers.

Bonnie Symansky asked about roof repairs. Don Winnicki stated that there is no money for roof replacement, but we do carry repair money which can be used for roofs.

Some discussion about the World Language position followed. Scott Schoonmaker stated that we should be mindful of adding anything new at this time.

Christopher Manna asked why all day Kindergarten was not included. Scott Schoonmaker stated that the cost is a full percent, so he wanted to be responsible. This is not an end to the conversation, but considering the long-term financial impact, this is not the right time.

Nancy Lappie asked about new athletics. Scott Schoonmaker stated there are no new teams. There is interest in boys' lacrosse and wrestling. They would come in as a club team and then later integrated into the budget if there was enough interest. Not different from surrounding districts.

Deborah Prunier stated we have to take baby steps. Marcey Onofrio stated we can take baby steps but eventually have to get there. Deborah Prunier said we should show good faith this year. Nancy Lappie said that she believes World Language should be removed. Deborah Prunier asked if the Board is comfortable making a motion at 2.95%. Marcey Onofrio said this may not be the time for new programs, but the Council can cut it.

Scott Schoonmaker brought up the FRC money. Deborah Prunier said she would like it allocated to one-time costs. John Bozzuto, Jr. suggested \$100,000 to reduce the number.

Bonnie Symansky commented that she would be more concerned about removing World Language if the teachers were asking. I thought it will be difficult to find the time with ½ day K.

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Scott Schoonmaker said you can argue the value of K-12 World Language, but we need to revisit because the number will not fly.

Deborah Prunier stated that we have only updated the number and not actually cut anything at 2.95%.

Nancy Lappie moved to remove the K-5 World Language position. Marcey Onofrio seconded.

Motion: To remove the K-5 World Language position from the 2009-2010 budget request.

Deborah Prunier - Aye

Marcey Onofrio - Aye

Nancy Lappie - Aye

John Bozzuto, Jr. – Aye

Bonnie Symansky - Aye

Christopher Manna - Nay

Motion passed 5-1

There was additional conversation regarding the athletic budget, the technology lease and use of FRC funds.

Marcey Onofrio moved to approve an operating budget request of \$29,159,421 for the school year 2009-2010. Seconded by Nancy Lappie.

Motion: To approve an operating budget request of \$29,159.421 for the school year 2009-1010.

All voted aye

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Marcey Onofrio moved to approve a capital budget request of \$75,000 for the school year 2009-2010. Seconded by Nancy Lappie.

Motion: To approve a capital budget request of \$75,000 for the school year 2009-2010.

All voted aye

Marcey Onofrio moved to direct Scott Schoonmaker to submit a letter of transmittal to the Town Council to include a one-time contribution of \$100,000 of FRC money to the current BOE budget request, reducing the request from 2.78 to 2.43. Seconded by Nancy Lappie.

Motion: To submit a letter of transmittal to the Town Council to include a one-time contribution of \$100,000.00 of Family Resource Center money to the current Board of Education request.

All voted aye

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM.
Submitted by Don Winnicki, Director/ Personnel & Business