

WEATHERSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD  
Monday, January 6, 2020  
5:30PM  
Weathersfield School

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

The meeting was called to order at 5:41PM by Sean Whalen, Board Chair. People were welcomed and dinner was served and eaten. Sean reconvened the meeting at 6:35PM. The flag was pledged.

Those present were: Sean Whalen, Jacqui Antonivich, Susan Hindinger, Kristen Bruso, Annemarie Redmond, JeanMarie Oakman, BJ Esty, Craig Locarno, David Baker, Ed Connors, Karen Woolsey, Ginger Wimberg, Robin Dawson, Kate Adams, Angie LaDeau, Roland Whitney, Robin Tindall, Tammy Kinsman, Nathalie Whitney, Kathy Dana, Gloria Ballantine, Kelly O'Brien, Ryan Gay, SAPA and Becky Chrisinger.

II. CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Sean Whalen added Ginger Wimberg to present about a historical bell. This will be Item A and the Budget will be moved to Item B under Items for Discussion.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Historical Bell - Ginger Wimberg

A former principal of the Perkinsville School was given a bell that was thought to be from the 1879 school building in Perkinsville but it was discovered that there is already a bell at that school. Ginger has done a lot of research and found out that the bell was in what was the Ascutneyville School. The bell is in beautiful condition. The historical society would like to give the bell to the school. The bell needs to be inside but it is hoped that the students will be able to ring it. There are some residents that remember the bell when they went to the Ascutneyville School and Ginger thought it would be nice if there was a dedication ceremony where they attend. The former principal, Norman Stoll, would like the bell dedicated to his former students. JeanMarie Oakman asked Ginger if she would work with the school to have a celebration around the bell. Ginger said she'd be happy to do that. Everyone thought this would be a really uplifting event for our community. Sean Whalen thanked Ginger for her extensive research into the bell.

B. Budget Presentation - JeanMarie Oakman and BJ Esty

Sean Whalen explained that JeanMarie and BJ were going to present the Budget and discuss the Budget. Sean said the Board and Budget Advisory Committee would like to hear input from those attending the meeting.

JeanMarie said to ask questions as she made the presentation if people wanted to.

JeanMarie presented the Budget using a powerpoint presentation and handouts. JeanMarie went over: what is new in the school and explained various components that are new, enrollment, high school enrollment, the general fund, SU assessments, food service and comparison of the last three years Budgets. The overall proposed Budget is: \$6,158,972.

JeanMarie went over items that need to be added this year and why. JeanMarie believes adding our Title 1 teacher to the Budget full time will provide our students with the education they need. Due to lower poverty rates in our town, this position may not be able to be funded in next year's budget through Title funds. This teacher provides excellent support to students and teachers and due to several large class sizes and the need for extra math instruction, this position will greatly add to a student's overall educational benefits. Another position that will help students receive an overall excellent education, is to add a Regular Education Paraprofessional due to some large class sizes and overall need in the school. The last item that JeanMarie believes is important for the overall Budget is to add more money to sub calling. The total amount of these additions are: \$110,295. These items are included in the proposed Budget.

There were questions around the SPED Assessments and JeanMarie and David Baker explained how the assessments work.

There was discussion around the homestead tax rate, equalized pupil spending and the CLA. Ed Coonors explained how the tax rate is determined overall. The equalized pupil spending and CLA drive the tax rate.

FY21

Equalized pupil spending \$18, 450.41 which is under the threshold of \$18,766 -3.96%

CLA 93.94% -1.60%

This makes the homestead tax rate \$1.8042 which is \$164 more per \$100,000 of home's worth than last year's tax. The expenditure budget is up 3.83%

David Baker talked about that health benefits are up 12%. We are still in negotiations with teachers and support staff.

Ginger Wimberg asked a question about ECP which is Early Childhood Regular Cost which is that 3 and 4 year olds are able to access 10 hours of preschool per week which is covered in the school budget.

JeanMarie talked about how great the new food service is. There was discussion around food service cost and increased participation. Craig Locarno talked about the program and what they have been doing and are going to be doing next year. Craig is excited about buying local and the quality of the food that is being provided to students. Susan Hindinger talked about the well being of students that is tied to the food service program and explained breakfast after the bell.

There was discussion around the Athletic Program and how much the Athletic Director is paid. The Board explained that they had to choose whether to pay the salary that was requested or shut down the program. There was input that the Parks and Recreation Department used to run the younger age sports program and there are still funds in this part of the Town budget. There was more discussion around athletics and the program. The Board will reach out to the Town to see if there is interest in transferring the younger ages back to the Parks and Recreation Department to run but at this point it needs to be left in the Budget for next year in order for younger students to have a sports program.

Robin Tindall gave input that she is happy about the drama program, math position, extra para, fresh foods, field trips and keeping smaller class sizes. These are all long term investments in the future of our children. Robin believes we need to think long term.

Keeping the Title 1 Math Teacher was discussed and the importance of this for many students. There was appreciation expressed for the education that is provided for the students of Weathersfield.

There was more discussion and questions around Athletics and Drama. The BAC gave input and had questions around both of these programs and some concerns around the amount of these two Budgets were expressed by some of the BAC members.

Susan Hindinger suggested having a breakdown of how much money all the volunteers in the school save the school in costs.

See Items for Action A.

## V. ITEMS FOR ACTION

### A. Approval of the Budget

Sean Whalen asked for a motion concerning approving the Budget. Annemarie Redmond made a motion to approve the budget of \$6,158,972 as presented by JeanMarie Oakman. Sean Whalen second this motion. There was discussion and this motion was withdrawn by Annemarie Redmond and Sean Whalen.

AnnMarie Redmond made a motion to approve the budget of \$6,158,972 as proposed using \$225.244 of local revenue. Sean Whalen second this motion. There was no further discussion. All in favor. This motion was approved.

Sean Whalen thanked the BAC (Gloria Ballantine, Nathalie Whitney, Kathy Dana, Kelly O'Brien, Tammy Kinsman) for all of the time and service in reviewing and giving input concerning the Budget. Sean expressed gratitude on behalf of the Board for their service.

## VI. PRINCIPAL REPORT - NONE

VII. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT - NONE

VIII. TENTATIVE EXECUTIVE SESSION - VSA Title 1 Section 313

Sean Whalen asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Annemarie Redmond made a motion to go into Executive Session. Kristen Brusco second this motion. There was no further discussion. All in favor. This motion was approved. The Board went into Executive Session at 8:52PM. Sean Whalen asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session. Kristen Brusco made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Jacqui Antonivich second this motion. There was no further discussion. All in favor. This motion was approved. The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:30PM.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Sean Whalen asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Susan Hindinger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Annemarie Redmond second this motion. There was no further discussion. All in favor. This motion was approved, The meeting was adjourned at 9:31PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Becky Chrisinger