

A Public Hearing was held Monday, March 27, 2017 at Woodbury Middle School, 67 Washington Ave., Woodbury CT.

Present: Board members: Michael Devine, Carol Ann Brown, John Chapman, David Lampart, George Bauer, Maryanne Van Aken, Janet Morgan, Pam Zmek, and BOE clerk, Natascha Schwartz. Also in attendance were Dr. Anna Cutaia-Leonard, Michael Rafferty, Susan Ruddock, Chrissy Fensore, Kim Culkin, Jodie Roden, Eric Bergeron, Suzi Greene, Pam Sordi, Moderator Lou DeLuca, reporter Mike Preato, and 2 members of the community.

Ms. Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Morgan appointed Woodbury Town Moderator, Lou DeLuca, to serve as moderator for the public hearing. He appointed BOE Secretary, Ms. Brown, to serve as the meeting clerk.

Mr. DeLuca read the following call: To present and receive questions about the Regional School District 14 Superintendent's proposed budget for 2017-2018. He turned the presentation over to Dr. Anna.

Dr. Anna gave the highlights of the recommended budget presentation. The total recommended budget is \$33,443,471. She noted that the budget, representing a 1.26% increase, is not an incremental budget, but rather a programmatic one. She noted completion this year of both Mathematics and Agriscience curricula. State budget impacted the Region by cutting grant money equivalent to almost \$500k. Enrollment increased from the projected 1756 students, to 1782 as of March 1, 2017.

Dr. Anna's key messages were the following:

- While the budget has gone up, the region is engaging in carrying out long overdue district improvements, such as buildings maintenance, continuation of technology upgrades, replacement of old music instruments to name a few.
- The science curriculum will be worked on in the coming year, however the region is slowing things down in response to the economic state.
- The region is looking at ways for greater efficiencies on how to save the taxpayers money. As an example, combining job responsibilities of those who are retiring or leaving.
- Though the preschool program will be relocating from WMS to both elementary schools, there will be no additional funds needed. This is not a new preschool program.

Mr. DeLuca opened the floor for public comment: Mr. John Torre of Woodbury asked where the preschool line item appears in the recommended budget document. Dr. Anna advised that it is reflected in the teacher's salary account lines.

Hearing no further comments, Mr. DeLuca adjourned the public hearing at 7:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Ann Brown, Secretary
Regional School District 14 Board of Education

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Natascha Z. Schwartz, Board Clerk, 3/28/2017

