

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

6:00 p.m.

Manchester High School – Room 293

PRESENT: Hagenow, Pattacini, Meggers

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Geary, Director of Finance & Management Clancy

ABSENT: Conyers, Hughes, Maio, Scappaticci, Stefanovicz, Thames

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m. by Christopher Pattacini, acting co-chair of the Personnel & Finance Committee.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mr. Pattacini.

C. OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Geary explained that the Board of Directors made a slight reduction to the Board of Education proposed budget based on the estimated ECS funding that is projected to come to the town. That ECS funding number has since changed and the final numbers are not projected to come out to the town until August. The Board of Directors reduced the Board of Education's proposed budget by approximately \$65,000.

Ms. Clancy passed out the list of original budget reduction suggestions for review. Mr. Geary noted that since that list came out there was one additional retirement of certified staff, so he proposed cutting the certified salary line by \$20,000. For the other \$45,000 in cuts, Mr. Geary proposed cutting the Instructional Supplies line, which equates to about \$5 per pupil.

D. QUESTIONS

Mr. Pattacini asked if the \$20,000 reduction in the certified salary line represented hiring a junior teacher to replace the retiring teacher. Mr. Geary

confirmed it was, and noted that he is not taking the full reduction he would take in a teacher retirement, as the retirement was in World Language, so it is sometimes more difficult to hire at the bottom of the salary scale. He budgeted \$68,000 for the replacement hire.

There were no other questions.

Mr. Pattacini noted the budget will be voted on for approval at Monday's Board Meeting. If any Board members not present tonight have questions, he asked that they please forward them to the Superintendent prior to that meeting.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, felt it was a tough call in what to reduce in the budget. He hopes there will be enough coverage in special education. As for reducing instructional supplies, he hopes there is enough to go around. Mr. Stringfellow hopes there is still funding for free lunch and spoke about childhood poverty, noting all children are welcome in our schools. Mr. Stringfellow would like to see more voices from minority community members. He feels all children are capable of learning. Last, he suggested an article in *TIME* magazine about sexual orientation.

F. CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Pattacini thanked the administration for their hard work on the budget and the Board of Directors for substantially supporting our budget. He noted the entire country is in financial straits.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pattacini adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Pattacini
Board Secretary