

SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL – CAFETERIA
MAY 3, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Michael Byrnes, Mr. Michael Breeden, Mr. Jack Cuddihy, Mrs. Jennifer Horschel, Mrs. Patricia Krouse, Mr. Paul Shephard

ABSENT: Mr. Donald Sutfin

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mrs. Sandra Anzalone, Superintendent; Mr. Thomas Murphy, Director of Finance; and Mrs. Barbara Thomasulo, District Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Loran Carter, GLP Principal; Mr. Jeff Cervoni, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Mrs. Shawn Johnson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Mrs. Lucinda Karstedt, Director of Technology; Mrs. Kelly LaRosa, Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

At 8:00 p.m., Mr. Byrnes called the meeting to order and asked those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Called to
order**

Mr. Byrnes asked for comments from the public.

**Public
Comments**

- ◆ Mrs. Gould, parent, expressed concern about the large class size for sixth grade in the coming year. She felt that it would be difficult for students who struggle academically to be successful, and high achievers would be held back. She asked that the Board restore the sixth grade teacher position for the Fall.
- ◆ Mrs. Bahun, Instrumental Music Teacher at Eden Elementary, thanked the Board for their hard work. She expressed concern about the reconfiguration of the Music Department. She stated that it looks nice on paper, but it dismantles the program. She felt that the proposal has three teachers teaching General Music at Eden Elementary, which would not be conducive to the start of any program. She also stated that a part-time person would not want to take ownership of the Elementary musical.
- ◆ Mrs. Wilhelm stated that she understood the intent to have the administrators look at schedules, but she wondered what the District would do with the money not spent if cuts were made from teacher time. Mrs. Anzalone responded that it could be held in abeyance for a teacher if needed, or it could be used for anything we did not budget for. There are three options: 1) Possible reinstatement of .33 FTE Social Studies Teacher, .33 FTE Math Teacher, .17 FTE English Teacher, some athletics funding in the total amount of \$41,446.22; 2) Administrators would have the latitude to adjust in the amount of \$41,446.22 as the schedule becomes clear; 3) Administrators have latitude to adjust any or all only from the other two items listed in the amount of \$41,446.22.
- ◆ Mrs. Pontonio, parent, agreed with Mrs. Gould regarding the sixth grade class size. She was concerned that students with attention deficit would be affected. She asked that the class size be considered

as it is now. Mrs. Anzalone stated that the current fifth grade is 21-22, current sixth grade is 24-25, next year's sixth grade is 25.

Mr. Breeden made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cuddihy that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, due to economic reasons the Board of Education hereby reduces the following positions effective June 30, 2016:

1. .33 Social Studies
2. .17 Mathematics
3. .17 English

**Motioned to
approve
reduction of
positions**

Mr. Breeden, Mr. Cuddihy and Mrs. Horschel voted yes. Mr. Byrnes, Mrs. Krouse and Mr. Shephard voted no. **The motion did not pass.**

Because the motion to reduce positions did not pass, the motion to reduce the corresponding teachers was not considered.

**Motioned to
reduce
teachers**

The motion to increase hours for the Social Worker was postponed until the May 18, 2016 Board of Education Meeting, pending successful passing of the budget vote.

**Motioned to
increase
hours for
Social
Worker**

Mr. Breeden made a motion seconded by Mr. Cuddihy to adjourn. Carried unanimously.

**Motioned to
adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Thomasulo
District Clerk