

Budget Workshop and Community Forum

Summary

May 22, 2018 - 6:05 p.m.

Present: Sandy Anzalone, Laura Feldman, Paul Shephard, Cheryl Carpenter, Jack Cuddihy, Marlene Grunder, Jennifer Horschel, Ellen Kindley, Don Sutfin, & Lucinda Karstedt. Kathy McCarthy took notes.

I. Budget Workshop / Community Forum

A. Introduction

- Mrs. Feldman started with a slide show/overview of options.

B. Comments

- Kristen Coleman – parent & taxpayer, is in favor of a School Resource Officer and against a contingent budget. She feels that the District needs to increase security and that Eden is late to the game. More needs to be done to prevent a school tragedy. The Police Department benefits also, as they know how schools function.
- Missy Hartman – Town Supervisor, said that three days after the failed budget was the Texas shooting. There is a need for increased school safety. Eden is not any different than Parkland and cannot afford to do nothing. A contingent budget would be devastating to recreation. More must be done to lobby for additional aid.
- Mike Byrnes – resident, Town Board Member and former Board of Education member, (finished Missy's statement).
- Katherine LaVerdi – Teacher and parent, stated that SRO interaction is necessary to work closely with administration and build a bridge between school, families and law enforcement. Benefits of the SRO are critical.
- Tim Walker – resident, stated that in 2000, his first week on the school board, there was a threat by three students. If it wasn't for Officer McCarthy, who was the temporary SRO at the time, things could have been worse.
- Rich Ventry – Town Board Member and resident, asked what the reason for the greeter was. He stated that student enrollment is declining and asked why costs do not go down. Mrs. Feldman answered that costs still go up. Mr. Shephard said that the State issues mandates without funding. There have been over 100 mandates over the last ten years. Mrs. Anzalone said whether you have 21 or 29 students, you still pay the same for the teacher. Mrs. Anzalone explained the reason for the greeter.
- Carl Monica (?) – resident and retired taxpayer, stated he was not going to use any bad words except for one ... taxes. The difference between his tax bill from 2005 and 2016 when he retired is \$700. He asked that the District look for ways to cut spending. Mr. Sutfin explained using his tax bill as a reference.
- Tebra Howard – support staff member and resident, said she has been a taxpayer for 33 years. She suggested using reserves to offset costs instead of raising taxes. Mrs. Feldman addressed some of Mrs. Howard's examples.
- Bill Fedchak – former Board Member and resident, said that the use of Capital reserves requires a public vote. Designate start for bondable items – no end date. How fund balance affects levy. Mrs. Feldman stated that capital reserves can only be used for capital projects.
- Patty Krouse – former Board Member and resident, asked the audience to stand if they voted. Then she asked them if they received the budget flyer. She asked where they got their information from. She stated that questions on social media are false and told them to go to the source – the Board.

- Kim Wiczerzynski – support staff member and resident, (finished up Mrs. Howard’s comments). Mrs. Anzalone responded that on the flyer, the Chief Administrator’s salary was listed as \$257,000 but that was her entire budget, including employee salaries, conferences, etc. Mrs. Wiczerzynski asked why Option A was selected for health insurance. Mrs. Feldman explained that there were two options for health insurance, and Option A included a 5.8% increase with automatic renewal rates guaranteed.
- Barbara Proudman – resident, stated that the BOCES expense line for Special Education went down. She would like more details on the line item. She also asked why Library, Social Worker, Psychologist lines have gone up. She feels that the District could save money in the Transportation Department, as it seems like there are duplicate bus routes. She heard that the Booster Club was telling people to come out and vote, so they would not have to pay to use the facilities, should the budget fail.
- Madison Pye & Leora Eisenberger – students, said they went to Board meetings and spoke in favor of the School Resource Officer. They asked if people would be talking about money right now if there had been a shooting in our school.
- Glenn McLaughlin – resident, stated he was in support of a School Resource Officer. He stated that the District could only go to the well so much, because families are struggling. He asked why not have groups pay for facilities; i.e. PTA, Boosters, etc. Mrs. Anzalone said that the PTA pays for all our field trips that are not funded anymore. Mr. Shephard added that the Booster Club pays for all our uniforms and funds a couple sports teams. Mr. Shephard asked why we would charge them when everything they make goes back to the school.
- George Mecca & Vinnie Koren – students, George read a speech about how cuts would affect students if we went to a contingent budget.
- Darren Azzarella – employee and CSEA President, expressed his support for the District and the budget.
- Paula Eisenberger – resident, suggested that maybe the budget proposal could state exactly how much taxes would go up, i.e. \$7.00 per every \$100,000 assessed value.

II. The Community Forum ended at 7:20 p.m.