

PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION Special Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting Title: Board Budget Development Session

Date: Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Plainville High School Learning Commons
Plainville, CT

Attendees: Michael Giuliano, Lori Consalvo, Deborah Hardy, Chair,
Nicole Palmieri, Laurie Peterson, Becky Tyrrell, Crystal St.
Lawrence, Kathy Wells and Foster White

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Maureen Brummett, Ed.D., Superintendent
Steven LePage, Asst. Superintendent
Sam Adlerstein, Director of Business and Operations

Early Departures: None

The Board's Budget Development meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chair Deborah Hardy. Lori Consalvo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Brummett, Mr. LePage and Mr. Adlerstein brought back answers to a few questions presented by the Board at last evening's meeting as follows:

The Eight Year Budget History:

► In 2016-17 and FY2017-18 budgets were reduced \$100,000 and \$300,000 respectively, in reaction to State School Grant reduction (ECS Grant).

► A third of the 2017-18 budget increase was due to a 6% increase in health insurance.

► The 2018-19 adjustment is for an increase in health insurance which required a change in the district health insurance provider to the Oxford State Plan from the Anthem self-insurance plan on July 1, 2018.

► In 2018-19 Insurance aside and adjusting the ECS reduction, the average increase has been 1.07%, compared to an annual contractual increase of -3.0%.

Dr. Brummett explained that the majority of this year's Education budget is driven by contractual obligations (with cost of living increases), the impact of the Wheeler School project, specifically transporting Wheeler Pre-K students to Linden Street School, and Health Insurance.

She stated that she had spoken to Governor Lamont this morning regarding ECS reimbursement for next year, and he stated he doesn't plan to touch the reimbursements. That said, Plainville should receive an additional \$260,000 in ECS money with a steady increase over the next 10 years.

Another question asked: Will an increase in Pre-school increase the budget?

Dr. Brummett stated that the district would only add a section if it could be managed within the current budget, i.e., last year Toffolon School had three Pre-K sections, this year there are only two sections. Next year, the district could offer another section, as the pre-K teacher is already in place and the fee charged to families would offset the cost of a paraprofessional. Also, the district controls the number of students taken in and can always close enrollment. She also commented that the advantages of having a high quality Pre-K program coincides with the research which shows that pre-school programs result in long-term cost avoidance and improve student outcomes. Students are more likely to be higher achievers and will need less assistance in the future.

In addition, as to the question asked about the number of individuals who are now covered by the State Health Insurance Plan, the State plan currently holds 100 groups and/or 17,631 employees who are covered by the plan. Seventy six towns participate and the plan is growing fast. Reportedly, a number are being added in current negotiations. No word on potential for impact of growth rate increase.

Mr. Adlerstein brought forth information about custodial staff. There are currently 17 custodians and 4 maintainers in the district. The middle school is also supported by a part-time, non-bargaining custodial substitute. An additional non-bargaining substitute floats through the district. The Facilities Department requested additional resources, especially at the middle school. The budget includes a small increase in planned substitute hours to partly accommodate the request.

Dr. Brummett again reiterated the currently proposed budget:

2017-18 Approved Budget:	\$37,322,912
2018-19 BOE Budget before Health Insurance & Wheeler Project Costs:	\$38,251,029
Dollar Increase:	\$ 928,117
Percentage Increase before Health Insurance & Wheeler Project Costs:	2.49%
Health Insurance Increase:	\$ 286,437
Wheeler Project Costs:	\$ 70,000
Percentage Increase after Health Insurance & Wheeler Project Costs:	3.44%
2018-19 BOE Budget after Health Insurance & Wheeler Project Costs:	\$38,607,466

She then asked the Board for input. She stated that she is happy with the proposed budget and will defend its contents to anyone.

Nicole Palmieri commented that the budget should be decreased and discussed various areas that could be cut, one being supplies.

Lori Consalvo asked if the budget could be tweaked a bit more, but not include the cutting of programs or staff.

Becky Tyrrell stated that it is the responsibility and obligation of the Board to put the best budget forward for the children of Plainville. She feels the proposed budget is fair.

Deb Hardy agreed, but commented that the Board should also look out for the taxpayers and those who are struggling. She questioned how many children are on free and reduced lunch and asked what those families who struggle will do.

Foster White stated that if the Board puts a bare bones budget forward and residents vote it down, the Board will have no choice but to reduce programs and staff.

Regarding the reduction of supplies, Principals Paula Eshoo and Andrew Batchelder stated that teachers in their schools pay for many of their own classroom supplies and are not reimbursed.

Crystal St. Lawrence stated that in the few years she has been on the Board, they have decreased the budget each time, but never have they put back. She stated that what is eliminated certainly impacts the students as she can see the effects on her own children.

Kathy Wells stated that if you asked those families who are on free and reduced lunch about the budget, and specifically told them what would be eliminated, she is sure they would make due to do what is best for their child's education.

Dr. Brummett then asked for direction. How much and where would the Board like to make reductions.

Becky Tyrrell asked if fellow Board Members would like to take a look at budgets of towns who are in their DRG, to see what they are doing.

Deb Hardy said no, as the Board does a good job on their own.

Becky Tyrrell stated that the Superintendent then needs direction and asked what the new percentage should be.


Deb Hardy suggested that fellow Board Members take the budget book home over the weekend and send their ideas for reductions to the Superintendent. Discussion ensued.

It was the consensus of the Board that an additional \$95,000 or 3.2% be eliminated from the budget.

The Board will review the aforementioned information and will meet again on **Wednesday, January 30 at 7:00 PM in the Plainville High School Learning Commons.**

A MOTION WAS MADE MICHAEL GIULIANO TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LORI CONSALVO. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,


Joan Calistro
Recorder of Minutes

Word/Board/min special meeting 012319 Budget

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