

REVISED 2/3/16

**PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting Minutes**

Special Meeting Title: Board Budget Development Session

Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Plainville High School Learning Commons
Plainville, CT

Attendees: Brent Davenport, Michael Giuliano, Deborah Hardy, Laurie Peterson, Cheryl Provost, Andrea Saunders, Board Chair, Becky Tyrrell (7:15 PM) Crystal St. Lawrence, and Foster White

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Jeffrey Kitching, Ed.D., Superintendent
Maureen Brummett, Ed.D., Asst. Superintendent
Steven Michaud, Director of Administration and Personnel
School Administrators

Early Departures: None

The Board's Budget Development meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Chair Andrea Saunders. Mrs. Saunders welcomed Dr. Kitching's Doctoral program students from CCSU.

Dr. Kitching began by giving a brief overview of what was presented at Monday evening's Budget session. He stressed the importance of the District's Vision document, its school personnel, and the 3 R's, Reprioritize, Reallocate and Reinvest. He stated that no other districts that he knows of have presented a 5% increase over the past five years and is very proud of this accomplishment.

When focusing on the future, Dr. Kitching discussed the Professional Learning Community, which is an ongoing process in which groups of educators meet regularly, share expertise, and work collaboratively to improve teaching skills and the academic performance of students. He also discussed Digital Pedagogy, which is the use of electronic/digital technology elements to enhance or to change the experience of learning for the student (i.e., changing how teachers teach). He also discussed why Digital Pedagogy is needed.

Dr. Kitching stated that the district has produced the transparency and trust the community expects and this process has paved the way to many significant improvements to educational programs throughout the district. He listed the following successes:

- ▶ Board Strategic Plan (mission and goals)
- ▶ Curriculum aligned to CCS and 21st Century Skills
- ▶ Full-day kindergarten for all students
- ▶ Preschool for 80% of 4 year old children
- ▶ Positive climate and culture (CAS, SERC, SDE)
- ▶ Literacy support K-5

- ▶ Elementary Wellness Initiative
- ▶ 1-1 and BYOD: Chromebooks grades 5-12
- ▶ STEM initiatives 6-12
- ▶ TECHbooks replacing textbooks
- ▶ Technology replacement plan
- ▶ Expanded clubs, activities and athletics
- ▶ College and Career Center
- ▶ Professional learning structure

Dr. Kitching stated that the budget is designed to sustain these incredible programs. He then discussed the impact of reallocation over the last five years and the decrease and leveling off of enrollment throughout the district. He then discussed the reduction of staff (-3.5 FTE) through retirements and attrition and no increase in proposed health insurance for 2016-17. He then reviewed the reimbursement for state agency placements earmarked through the Excess Cost grant. Further, he has budgeted \$53,500 for technology replacement costs. Last year the district submitted a State Technology Replacement grant for \$150,000 for which approximately \$50,000 is anticipated.

Dr. Kitching stated that this is the budget that is best for the district to sustain its many programs but offered three other scenarios as potential reduction options:

Health Insurance: A reduction of (\$70,000) A new total increase of \$537,631 or 1.56%

Staffing reductions and negotiated contract changes will produce a cost savings for 2016-17. Even with an increase in policy prices the budget amount will prove an adequate share for the Board's contribution.

Legal Fees: A reduction of (\$30,000) A new total increase of \$507,631 or 1.48%

By making a contribution to the retainer with realized savings from the current year, this can offset the impact on the 2016-17 budget increase.

Turf Field Fund: A reduction of (\$40,000) A new total increase of \$467,631 or 1.36%

There is no proposed plan to find the funding for this cut in other places.

Dr. Kitching also distributed an informational handout consisting of a list of Non-Instructional Software, Non-Instructional Purchased Services and Instructional-Purchased Services which have been consolidated to three object areas.

Dr. Kitching then asked the Board for direction as to which scenario they would like placed on the Board agenda for approval. Discussion ensued. Discussions centered around the Excess Cost Grant, Technology Plan, LPN needs, Health insurance reductions and the turf field.

Mrs. Saunders asked for a consensus of all Board Members:

Cheryl Provost, Approve the 1.77% option with no further reductions
Foster White, Approve the 1.77% option with no further reductions
Deborah Hardy, Approve the 1.48% option cutting health insurance and legal fees
Crystal St. Lawrence, Approve the 1.77% option with no further reductions
Michael Giuliano, Approve the 1.56% option cutting health insurance
Laurie Peterson, Approve the 1.48% option but consider reducing a portion of the legal fees
Brent Davenport, Approve the 1.56% option cutting health insurance
Becky Tyrrell, Approve the 1.77% option with no further reductions
Andrea Saunders, Approve the 1.48% option cutting health insurance and legal fees

Mrs. Saunders stated that she feels comfortable with reducing the budget to 1.48% stating that the legal retainer fee can come out of this year's budget with realized savings. She asked fellow Board members' if they would be comfortable with presenting a budget under 1.50% to the Town Council. Discussion ensued.

CONSENSUS OF THE BOARD IS TO PROPOSE A BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-17 OF 1.48% OR AN INCREASE OF \$507,631, TO THE TOWN COUNCIL.

Mrs. Tyrrell stated that there needs to be a strategy as to where to go should the Town Council reduce the budget further.

Dr. Kitching commented that the Board should keep in mind that the Middle School and Wheeler projects will also be a part of this year's capital plan and that these issues are of top priority for the Board.

In conclusion, Dr. Kitching feels that this is a fair budget and did the best he could to sustain all items and programs. Because the Board has agreed on a budget direction for fiscal year 2016-17, they will cancel their meeting for Tuesday, February 2nd.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CHERYL PROVOST. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Calistro
Joan Calistro
Recorder of Minutes

Word/Board/min special meeting 012716 budget

RECEIVED

FEB 03 2016

Carol R. Conway
TOWN CLERK

