

**BOARD OF EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
BUDGET & FACILITIES MEETING
Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

8:15 a.m. Daly Annex – BOE Conference Room

Attendance: BOE Members – Alan Baer, Karen Sloan, Chris Nadolne, Nora Johnson, Beth Weisburd, Dr. Kathleen Mooney, Superintendent of Schools, Mary Callahan, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Jim Ristano, Director of Facilities, Elaine Fenick, Human Resources Administrator. Approximately seventeen residents also attended.

Meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m.

Beth Weisburd was elected as chair of the Budget & Facilities Committee.

Budget/Change in State Aid:

Ms. Callahan opened the meeting with clearing some confusion about the revenue amounts in the budget. When planning the budget the district must come to a revenue number to match the expenditure. A budget is essentially an estimate it is not supposed to be every dollar that the district has and every dollar that is spent. However, this year the district will see an increase a state aid that was recently passed by the assembly and state. The change in state aid from the beginning of the budgeting process will now be added to the overall expenditures. The budgeted additional state aid amount is now \$437,170. In addition, the GEA aid increased to \$397,000 extra. The district also received other aid which is referred to as expenditure driven aid. This aid is calculated from what the district spent in the prior year and is a percent assigned to calculate the aid. This aid is based on the spending for items such as transportation, computer aid and special education.

At the request of the Board, Central Office Administration meet on April 6 to develop a budget draft with the additional state aid that would stay within the levy limit. At that time, the budget was reviewed line by line and reductions were made in equipment, supplies, curriculum, repairs and miscellaneous codes. These reductions amounted to \$330,995 and were able to add back staffing positions to address state mandates and reduce class size. Dr. Mooney presented the recommendations to include the following: four elementary school teachers, three ESL mandated teachers, one bilingual kindergarten teacher, one business teacher at the high school, four security aids. Security and class size is of the utmost importance for our district. This recommendation will stay within the levy limit of .8 and carries in increase of 1.19%. Unfortunately, the recommendation does not include the afterschool ESL Program and a Supervisor of Operations position, which both are equally important for students and district needs.

The ESL afterschool program was originally funded by a state grant and the district did not receive funding approval for the 2016-17 school year. This is an effective program that serves a growing population of students. A suggestion was made to form a committee comprised of teachers and administrators to examine an alternative afterschool program for ESL students and maintain a model similar to the former program. In addition, the Board recommended the budget include one additional guidance counselor position in order to keep the student to counselor ratios at a more appropriate number and help support struggling students. This recommendation will be examined by Dr. Mooney. The sale of land, currently on the ballot for community approval, would aid the district's fund balance to offset future taxes and thereby maintain this position. The possibility of leasing district owned space for solar power could also generate additional revenue in the district's budget. The Board also recommended that the district parking spots be reviewed to see if more unused parking spots could be rented to local commuters.

The meeting ended at 10:00 a.m.