

Special Meeting
Region 9 Board of Education Budget Workshop
March 6, 2017

MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Board of Education: Coppinger, D'Agostino, Gombos, Hancock, Hocker, Johnston, King (via telephone)

Administration: McMorran, Pierson Ugol, Pin, Lagas, Angell, Czudak, Desmarais, McTague, Panos, Roszko, Santangeli, Schemm, Staron

Others: Approximately 30 members of the public

Mr. Hancock called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Mitchell, Huckleberry Road, Redding, spoke in support of keeping Freshman athletics.

Andrew Gale, George Hull Hill Road, Redding, spoke in support of keeping Freshman athletics.

Bob Williston, Orchard Drive, Redding spoke in support of keeping athletics.

Laura Wheatley, Vista Drive, Easton, spoke in support of keeping the student counselor and athletics.

Mike Dobbins, Wood Road, Redding spoke in support of keeping athletics.

Andy Scott, Black Rock Turnpike, Redding spoke in support keeping athletics.

Gavin Blawie, Gate Ridge Road, Easton, spoke in support of keeping athletics.

Cheryl Graziano, Deacon Abbott Road, Redding spoke in support of keeping athletics.

Deirdre Fletcher, Packer Brook Road, Redding, spoke in support of keeping athletics.

Lee Hawk, Cricklewood Road, Redding, spoke in support of keeping athletics.

Steve Holm-Hansen, Wilson Road, Easton, spoke in support of keeping athletics.

BOARD COMMENT

Mr. Coppinger commented that he appreciates the parents attendance at the Board meeting. He noted that it is not the intention of the board to cut programs; however, the population is declining and the school will need to be right-sized for the population.

Mr. Hocker thanked all the people for coming out in support. He said this was the first of several workshops and only the beginning of the process.

Mr. D'Agostino stated he appreciated parents advocating for their children and that this is just the initial proposal the Board is considering.

Ms. Gombos reiterated appreciation for the public's engagement in this year's budget discussion.

Mr. Hancock said he wanted to thank everyone for coming and that their input was helpful.



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CHRISTINE HALLORAN
TOWN CLERK EASTON CT

Mr. Johnston thanked everyone for coming and he will consider all their comments during the process.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Region 9 2017-2018 Operating Budget

Gina Pin presented information related to Cost Center Analysis for the proposed 2.33% Budget and Athletics Cost Saving Recommendations.

Discussion of the budget and specifics related to Special Education costs, Athletic programming costs and class size took place.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lee Hawk, Cricklewood Road, Redding, said listening to the budget process was beneficial and spoke in support of not cutting teachers.

Tim Dicippio, Soundview Drive, Easton, said that niche.com rated Region 9 number 8 in the state and athletics were an important part of their ratings.

Cheryl Graziano, Deacon Abbott Road, Redding, said that she was comfortable with the current 2.33 % budget increase proposal.

BOARD COMMENT

Mr. Coppinger said it was nice for all the parents to stay so late. It's not an easy process and he is aware that diversity in offerings is the hallmark of Region 9's quality education.

Mr. Hocker said sometimes you have a bad year and can't do what you did last year, but he also doesn't want to lose programs.

Mr. D'Agostino said he is mindful of the bottom line and that it is important to manage the programs for the student population so that there are no surprises 10 years from now.

Mrs. Gombos noted that she is approaching the budget analysis with consideration of keeping Barlow standards for which the school is known for.

Mr. Johnston said he appreciated all the hard work of the administration and wants to find a good balance.

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting. Gombos, D'Agostino. Approved. Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 11:19 p.m