

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

Special Meeting

June 2, 2008

Blake Administration Building

Chairman Palmieri opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Present at the meeting:

Mark Palmieri, Howard Horvath, T. Sean Maher, Eric Murillo. M. Toni Paine, Robert Saley

Chairman Palmieri thanked everyone for attending this special meeting of the Board as a whole for the purpose of passing the budget and introduced Dr. JoAnn Andrees.

Dr. Andrees said that she along with Chairman Mark Palmieri and Mr. Cavallaro wanted to give special thanks to the Board, Mr. Gary Miller, Mayor Picard, various unions, administration, City Council and Budget Chairwoman, Mrs. Nancy Rossi, Beth Sabo, Chief Quagliani, David Cappetta along with citizens and staff who offered their suggestions to make tonight's budget possible.

In preparation of this year's budget there were many discussions with principals, department chairs and supervisors as we attempted to be collaborative in our process.

Our primary goal was to construct a budget that would provide the least impact on the delivery of instruction under the circumstances.

In our continuing services budget we requested \$80,586,416.00. The City Council appropriated \$77,821,726.00. The budget I will present to you tonight will reflect an additional amount that we have reduced from this year's budget of \$1,312, 367.00. There is only one area in tonight's budget that reflects an increase in the amount of \$125,000.00 and that is in the area of telephone and communication and this is to cover in the event we don't get the grant from the State for fiber and other communication.

Increases:

- +125,000 Telephone and Communication – Increase to cover the cost of fiber and communication

Decreases:

- -200,000 Tuition - Adjusted due to transfer of some of the Special Education expenses to IDEA Grant
- -367,367 Salary – Reductions in cost of new hires to replace retired teachers, reduction of two positions in custodial staff
- - 75,000 Operation of Plant – Reduced utilities based on year end actual and reduced repair accounts
- - 480,000 Benefits – Reduced per trending of health benefits bills; Increase in co-payments; reduced Unemployment Compensation Account, Co-payments
- - 65,000 Instruction - Reduction in technology and transfer Psychiatric Services to IDEA Grant
- -125,000 Purchased Services – Reduced payments to Food Service, Rink, Stadium, and Consulting Services.

Total -\$1,312,367 Deductions made in the budget to be able to reach

Approved \$79,274.049

We have been able to make purchases earlier in the year now for Food Service and are able to receive better prices rather than waiting until the Fall. This will save us money. We have also raised the cost of lunches 25 cents across the board.

We are hoping to pass advertising policies for the Rink and Stadium which will give us additional revenue.

Neil Cavallaro stated that by starting early we are getting better qualified teachers. Most of the positions where we have been hiring are due to retirement and are in shortage areas such as Math and Science.

We have tried to be conservative in our numbers so the numbers we have presented to you we believe are real numbers.

Rob Saley questioned where West Haven stood as far as other communities in relation to the cost of lunches. We fall somewhere in the lower to middle as far as the price of lunch is concerned. He asked if this would be sufficient and the response was that we can look into this again next year if needed. Many families are being hit hard and we are taking this into account as well. Neil

stated that if we add the Kinder Care Program we will be providing breakfast to the morning kindergarten students next year in Title I schools and we are asking principals to feed kindergarteners particularly in Title I Schools breakfast and lunch for the afternoon kindergarteners. This will generate revenue and we receive money for these students.

Dr. Andrees welcomed Dave Cappetta who attended this meeting. The Board welcomed Dave.

Chairman Palmieri asked for a motion to pass the budget

Toni Paine made a motion to pass the 08-09 budget

T. Sean Maher seconded the motion

All board members present were in agreement

The 08-09 Budget was approved

Dr. Andrees requested that this year's Budget Transfers take place next Monday evening, June 9th at 6:30 PM.

Neil stated that tonight under Administration Reports - Special Education Readiness we will discuss a readiness grant that we received for our two classes. Larry Frattini and Cindy Smirnoff who is an education consultant will explain of what will be done with the program under administration but while Gary is present we want to assure the board we are not cutting the program and that we can use IDEA funds to fund the program. There were no questions at this time.

Mark asked for a motion to adjourn.

T. Sean Maher made the motion to adjourn

M. Toni Paine seconded the motion

All were in favor

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.