

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2013
Special Board of Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.
WESTBROOK HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

MINUTES

- I. CALL TO ORDER – The special meeting of February 28, 2013 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Westbrook High School library.

Members Present: Maureen Westbrook, Marti White, Lee Bridgewater, Myrn Keryc, Sally Greaves, Dee Adorno, Pat Labbadia

Absent: Kim Walker, Michele Palumbo

Also Present: Patricia A. Ciccone, Superintendent; Lesley Wysocki, Business Manager; Katharine Bishop, Daisy Principal; Gary Gavigan, Board of Finance; community members

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- III. BUDGET WORKSHOP

- A. Board of Education Budget for 2013-2014 – Presentation by the Superintendent of Schools and Question and Answer session.

The Superintendent presented her recommended budget referring to our great school system filled with great students, staff, and leadership, and our great relationship with the town. She quoted Winston Churchill's "The Price of Greatness is Responsibility". The Superintendent said that the Board has been responsible in creating a budget in keeping with the Mission and Guidelines, that we sustain this success. She stated that she is seeking approval for a 3.19% increase.

A handout was provided showing a graph and the percentages of the budget toward salaries and benefits, contracted/purchased services, transportation, tuition, supplies and equipment. She commented that 78% of the budget is driven by salary and benefits and that in addition to other contractual obligations leaves very little room to cut further. The superintendent seeks to add a .5 school psychologist for the high school. Technology has not been cut at all and there is \$50,000 to support the school lunch program.

In summary, the Superintendent's recommended proposed budget at 3.19% is \$15,757,399.

She did reference safety and security expenses, which the BOE and the town will need to look at separately.

Maureen Westbrook, Chair, opened the meeting to the public for questions and comments.

Gary Gavigan commented briefly on a potential bonding structure to be presented to the town and how that might relate to a security upgrade and the Capital Improvement Plan.

Mel Davey suggested that the BOE may not be asking for everything it needs and 3.19% may be too conservative.

The Chair commented that it is the Board's responsibility to do what is educationally sound.

Marti White commented that we benefited from a health insurance savings in producing the proposed budget. She also expressed appreciation to the superintendent for her explanations regarding the proposed budget.

IV. ADJOURN: Moved by Pat Labbadia and seconded by Marti White to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Myrn Keryc, Board Secretary

Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk