

**Attendance:**

Philip Schaefer, Chairperson	Sara Spaulding
Ellen Uzenoff, Vice Chairperson	Dr. Colleen Palmer, Superintendent
Dana Levin, Secretary/Treasurer	Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent
Nina Daniel	Dr. Jo-Ann Keating, Director of Finance & Ops.
Denise Harvey	Lewis Brey, Director of Human Resources
Elise Major	

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**II. HURLBUTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

The proposed Hurlbutt Elementary School budget is \$3,090,330, which represents a 3.29% increase over the FY 2014 expected budget. Mrs. Kaddis, Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal, explained the budget drivers as safety and security, enrollment and related staff, world language, and books and materials. Cost containment measures include monitoring class size, evaluating support staff needs weekly, maximizing books and other materials by sharing across classrooms, and philanthropy donations from the PTO.

**III. WESTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

Ms. Falber, Weston Intermediate School Principal, presented the intermediate school’s proposed budget of \$3,894,808, which represents a 1.59% increase over FY 2014. Priorities that drive budget decisions include safety and security of students and staff; enrollment and staffing; academic, social/emotional, and behavioral programs; opportunities for students to receive support; technology integration to support teaching and learning; professional development; and student enrichment opportunities. To contain costs, school administration remains mindful of class size, proposes minimal increases for non-salary accounts, and will utilize CIL and administration-led professional development, and PTO philanthropy grants.

**IV. WESTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The proposed budget for Weston Middle School is \$4,698,639, which represents a 2.46% increase of the FY 2014 expected budget. Mrs. Watkins, Weston Middle School Principal, explained that the majority of the middle school’s budget stems from salaries. Other budget drivers include professional development and collaboration, and ensuring the fidelity of the middle school teaming model, particularly with sixth and seventh grades. Cost containments include reducing paraprofessional staffing, reallocating data support to the district level, maximizing certified teachers, reclassifying online library subscriptions, and funding a portion of the music program through the Summer Performing Arts Entrepreneurial Program.

**V. WESTON HIGH SCHOOL**

Weston High School Principal Mrs. Deorio presented the proposed \$5,829,688 high school

budget, which represents an increase of 4.17% over the FY 2014 expected budget. All of the budget requests for the school, which won the national Blue Ribbon award this year, align with the WHS student expectations. Budget drivers include safety and security, enrollment, graduation requirements, and academic and co-curricular program. Mindful cost containment measures that do not affect the quality of education include combining two courses into one section, revision of course offerings, and examination/reduction on noncertified staff.

## **VI. ATHLETICS**

For FY 2015, a total of 842 student athletes, 17 more than FY 2014, are expected. The proposed athletic budget is \$750,697, which represents a 1.43% increase over the FY 2014 budget request. Mr. Berkowitz, Director of Athletics, explained that officials, insurance and stipends/salaries, including the reinstatement of one assistant varsity softball coach are the major budget drivers. Cost efficiencies include outside financial support, participation fees, gate receipts, reducing an administrative assistant position to an 11-month position, and splitting equipment requests with the physical education department.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **Rose Horowitz, Silver Ridge Common**

Ms. Horowitz spoke regarding a concern for the music and performing arts departments at WHS, with the loss of Doris Fiotakis and Sal LaRusso in the last two years and the transition that needs to happen to ensure success in these areas. Ms. Horowitz also asked about drama course offerings and requested a curricular leader for performing arts.

### **Nancy Cohen, Hillcrest Lane**

Ms. Cohen spoke regarding the combined-level drama course her children both participated in, and voiced the need for the curriculum to be enhanced in order to improve enrollment.

### **Nancy Babyak, Jana Drive**

Ms. Babyak spoke to the number of students participating in Company, and the talent of the students who pursue careers in theatre arts. She also spoke to the need of having an auditorium manager who is trained in theatre space management, and an enhanced before- or after-school theatre curriculum.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.

Minutes reviewed/approved by Dr. Colleen Palmer, Superintendent.