

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. FACILITIES

Mr. Clarke, Director of School Facilities, presented the FY 2015 budget request of \$4,792,603, which is a 1.56% increase over FY 2014. Budget priorities are reflective of the mission of the facilities department, which is to provide a safe and secure, comfortable, clean, functional, efficient, and well maintained environment for teaching and learning. Increases are \$128,254 for non-salary accounts, primarily funding for service contracts that was removed from last year’s budget for Mile of Safety and maintenance projects, and \$48,315 for salary accounts.

III. CAPITAL BUDGET

There are six items for consideration in the FY 2015 budget, as presented by Mr. Clarke: Zenon plant repairs, sound system upgrades for the high school football field, contingency funds for the high school windows/HVAC project, instructional space upgrades for Project Lead the Way at the middle and high schools, phase 2 of the classroom door replacement plan for the middle school, and a partial roof replacement for the North House of Hurlbutt.

IV. SPECIAL EDUCATION

Ms. Pernice, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, presented the key budget drivers of the \$6,861,021 proposed special education budget as staffing, outplacements, contracted services, mediation requests, increased student needs, and grant reimbursement decreases. The proposed budget for FY 2015 is a 7.36% increase over the FY 2014 adopted budget, and a 1.58% increase over the FY 2014 expected budget. Cost containment strategies include collaborating with other districts to develop programs, and creating in-district programs. Students in special education represent 9.74 of the total student population, and are aged pre-kindergarten through 21 years old.

V. PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES

The Pupil Personnel Services cost center, with a proposed budget of \$2,587,413 for FY 2015 includes services for student counseling, class scheduling, college and career planning, nursing, and occupational and physical therapy to support regular and special needs students. The budget reflects a 2.73% increase over the FY 2014 adopted budget. Ms. Pernice discussed three budget

drivers, which are staffing, increased occupational and physical therapy services due to student needs, and professional technical services.

VI. TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Mr. Haakonsen, Director of Technology, responded to questions from Board members related to the technology budget, purchasing and bid processes, software use, student-owned devices, current equipment inventories, state testing, and lease specifics.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT CONCLUDING REMARKS

Dr. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, reiterated the total proposed budget costs for FY 2014, historical budget data from FY 2010 to present, five-year compounded actuals from other DRG-A districts, and significant drivers to the FY 2015 budget. Dr. Palmer also described the complexities involved in staffing, including a visual representation of the teaming model structure for sixth grade and benefits to maintaining teams of five classes. In closing, the overarching goals of the budget process were discussed: providing a safe and secure educational environment, personalized education, authentic learning experiences, and purposeful technology; using the Strategic Plan to support world-class education; attracting and retaining the most talented and dedicated workforce; and continuing to be an asset to the Town and an integral part of its identity.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – No Report

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.

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