

**East Windsor Board of Education  
Budget Workshop Minutes – February 5, 2020  
East Windsor High School, Room N4 – 6:30 p.m.**

Chair C. Simonelli called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

In attendance: Chair C. Simonelli, Vice Chair R. Reichle, Secretary K. Carey-Trull, W. Raber, D. Swaim, F. Neill, S. Andrews, C. Sevarino, Dr. C. DeBarge

Also in attendance: Dr. P. Tudryn, L. Slate, D. Rouillard, A. Paquette

Absent: K. Bilodeau

Cost Center Review:

Special Education – P. Tudryn

Human Resources – L. Slate

Curriculum – D. Rouillard

Central Services – C. DeBarge/ A. Paquette

Discussion:

Special Education

Discussion ensued relative to increased special education transportation costs, the need for wheelchair accessible buses for students at all three schools, both of which have increased our costs.

The projected budget for in-district and out-of-district transportation is \$754,815, which is an increase of \$97,615.

Other costs discussed were increased costs for testing and mailings for families. (With more than 210 students on IEPs and the requirement to do evaluations every three years for each, this results in more than 100 evaluations a year for updates and new IEPs for students.)

Also discussed were special education transition services, providing post-secondary training and counseling for students starting at 14 or 15 years old, and the transition program for ages 18-21. The program is offset by a AT+T grant. It has tripled in size in the last three to four years, and since the district has had its own program, which is less expensive than outsourcing.

Final discussion in this category were in-state public and private tuition costs.

Curriculum

Discussion ensued relative to adding a PSAT8 for eighth graders as a means to establish their skills and potential challenges to better prepare them for the PSAT and SAT.

Also discussed was the hiring of a consultant to work with math teachers to update the math curriculum and focus on improving instruction to tackle math scores.

Final discussion in this category was offsetting costs with grants.

The Chair called for a recess at 7:42 p.m.

The workshop reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

Central Services

Discussion ensued relative to the need to hire a bilingual teacher due to the number of ESL students at the elementary school level, right on edge of being required to provide this service, so that this cost would be in translation services.

A. Paquette spoke to items that are driving the increase and presented a chart with the following information:

- 33% is health insurance increases
- 39% percent salaries
- Increased transportation costs

Total budget is an 8.3% increase, with an all funds budget of \$28.2 million. Including grants and funds, the local budget request is \$25.9 million.

Discussion also ensued relative to district-issued laptops, which have an extra year on warranty and will not require an added appropriation for laptops this year; however, there may be the need to update Smart Boards with interactive televisions. We are seeking a grant to cover the costs for the 91 we would need for the entire district, which would be \$224,000 for units, installation, training, and would also include removal of existing equipment.

It is the preference of the Board to notify the Board of Finance of the fact that if we do not receive this grant, we would still have the need to replace a portion of the Smart Boards, which amounts to \$70,000 to replace the 28 that require immediate replacement.

The Board will need to vote whether or not to make any initial cuts, or whether they want to go to the Board of Finance with a proposed 8.3% increase.

On a motion by S. Andrews, 2<sup>nd</sup> by F. Neill the Board voted to adjourn at 9:12 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Carey-Trull  
Board Secretary

Approved: 2/12/20