

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION**Monday, April 3, 2023 @ 5:45 p.m.****WHS Library****Special Board of Education Meeting**

Members Present: K. Walker, Z. Hayden, C. Kuehlewind, M. Palumbo, M. Luft, D. Perreault, A. Miesse.

Absent: S. Greaves, M. Esposito

Also Present: Superintendent Kristina Martineau; Lesley Wysocki, Business Manager;

Minutes –April 3, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER – The Special Meeting of April 3, 2023 was called to order at 5:46 p.m. by Kim Walker, Chair, in the WHS library.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Ehlert commented that a cut of \$75,000 to the BOE budget was an appropriate decision. Mr. Ehlert asked the BOE to consider future use of surplus allocation.

Tony Cozza complimented the school system for the Excellence in Innovation Award and also congratulated the BOE.

IV. BUDGET WORKSHOP –Dr. Walker reviewed the eight month long budget process with participation from administrators, subcommittees, and budget workshops and the difficult decisions made in an effort to reduce the budget; and now the task to now find \$75,000 to cut without compromising programs, etc. Superintendent Martineau asked Lesley Wysocki, Business Manager, to comment on information she recently learned relative to energy costs. Mrs. Wysocki said she had budgeted for the expected 50% increase in electricity. Mrs. Wysocki reviewed new contract and generation rates information.

Each Board member was given the opportunity for comments:

- BOE members were in agreement that it is a tight budget already, but respect the BOF decision to request \$75,000 reduction
- BOE has been transparent and pro-active giving the public opportunity for discussion in the budget process and will keep sharing in the budget process
- Appreciation to the Superintendent, business manager and administrative teams and BOE for time and effort put into budget process
- BOF also has difficult decisions refining the budget and good to have BOF attend BOE meetings

- Moving forward specific feedback would be appreciated so as not to be in this position again
- Concerns about unknowns in regard to current projects – also applying for grants to cover costs
- Other discussions and questions were in regard to how the \$75,000 figure was determined and the BOE would like more feedback on that decision by the BOF.

MOTION by Z. Hayden and SECOND by M. Luft to approve the \$75,000 reduction to the BOE budget as requested by the BOF and for the BOE to direct Superintendent Martineau to make the reduction from the electricity line for a total budget of \$19,414,120.00. MOTION CARRIES - Vote unanimous.

- V. ADJOURN: MOTION by C. Kuehlewind and SECOND by M. Luft to adjourn at 6:11 p.m. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Kuehlewind, Board Secretary

Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk