

Budget Committee
Minutes
Public Hearing
February 11, 2014

Present: T. Beard, J. Burk, B. Cummings C. Guagliumi, S. Heinrich, G. Krupp, C. Lang,
L. Mooney, C. Skarda and School Board liaison G. Markwell

Excused: R. Barnes and V. Pellegrino

Absent: A. Nelson

Also present: Superintendent M. Chiafery, Assistant Superintendent Dr. M. McLaughlin,
and School Business Administrator M. Shevenell

C. Guagliumi called the Public Hearing to order at 7:32 PM.

C. Guagliumi told those present that the Operating Budget as currently proposed by the Budget Committee was \$68,727,241. She said this represented a 2.63% increase over the current budget and was \$87,331 less than the default budget. She indicated that the School Board had met earlier in the evening and were proposing a further reduction in the budget, which if the Budget Committee approved, would result in a proposed Operating Budget of \$68,682,241. This amount would represent a 2.56% increase over the current budget. C. Guagliumi said the major reasons for budget increase were an 11% increase in health insurance costs, 4% increase in transportation costs and a 2.9% increase in out-of-district placements and associated transportation costs. She indicated that several capital improvement maintenance items were included in the budget: continuation of asbestos removal, \$700,000 for roofing projects at the high school and replacement of a maintenance truck. In addition, she said the budget also includes \$215,000 for the second year of the five-year technology plan. She thanked the Administration and the School board for the work they had put into the budget.

C. Guagliumi said the purpose of the Public Hearing was to take public comments regarding the three articles on which the Budget Committee would be voting: operating budget, gas conversion and a petitioned warrant article.

C. Guagliumi read the Gas Conversion warrant article and noted that the amount requested in the warrant article has been reduced to reflect annual lease payments of \$187,639. C. Guagliumi opened the hearing to comments from the public on the gas conversion warrant article. There were none. C. Guagliumi opened the hearing to comments from the Budget Committee. There were none.

C. Guagliumi read the Operating Budget warrant article noting the new amount proposed by the School Board was \$68,682,241 and stated that the default budget was \$68,815,621. C. Guagliumi opened the hearing to comments from the public on the

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operating budget. There were none. C. Guagliumi opened the hearing to comments from the Budget Committee. There were none.

C. Guagliumi read the petitioned warrant article, which would eliminate the Budget Committee and increase the size of the School Board. She said the Committee needed to vote a recommendation on this article because it inferred a budget expense. C. Guagliumi opened the hearing to comments from the public on the petitioned warrant article. There were none. C. Guagliumi opened the hearing to comments from the Budget Committee, stating that Committee discussion would be held when the Committee meeting resumed after the Public Hearing ended. There were none.

C. Guagliumi closed the Public Hearing at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich