

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2017
Conference Room**

CALL TO ORDER: Vice President Kim Rourke called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

ATTENDANCE: Kay M. Warren, Kim Rourke, John Lippert, Lisa Donegan, Marian Matthews, and John Calarese. **ABSENT:** Jim Rupert. **GUESTS:** Dr. Jim Longo, Supt., Troy Hopkins, Principal, Lisa Dyer, Financial Manager. **AUDIENCE:** Jason Horn, Kim Johnston, and Rebecca Haeger.

2. **PERSONS TO BE HEARD:** Rebecca Haeger raised a concern that the STEAM program would be taking away from the basic curriculum and skills. Dr. Longo and Mr. Hopkins assured her that STEAM is an approach to learning and does not take away from instruction of established curriculum and skills.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Dr. Longo handed out the recent enrollment summary term: 17-18 Term 1. He also handed out from Shipman & Goodwin the Employment Legislation Summary. Dr. Longo stated that the state legislation passed a lot of items that will hurt the school systems within the state.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 6/15/2017—John Lippert motioned to accept the minutes as written. Kay Warren seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Minutes of 6/27/2017—John Calarese motioned to approve the minutes as written. John Lippert seconded. Kay Warren, Lisa Donegan, and Marian Matthews abstained. Motion passed.**

5. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:** Dr. Longo stated that the space downstairs was coming along well. The monies for this was saved from the 16/17 budget for 3 new classrooms. He stated he felt confident that the new classrooms will be open for the start of school. \$70,000 was spent for this project.

A structural AC/heating unit will be installed on the roof. The Board felt that a structural engineer should look at the area to make sure that it is safe to put in that area of the roof. Dr. Longo would like this to be done for the opening of school.

Dr. Longo stated that First Selectman Mike Zambo stated that the town was going to do a 0% increase in their budget and the school should be doing the same thing. This will be talked about at the next meeting of the Board.

Marian Matthews asked Dr. Longo to put the garden on the agenda. She stated that the Garden Club is interested about the teachings of ecology in each of the classrooms and would like to see gardening projects initiated. She would like to see more place-base teaching. Troy Hopkins will be discussing this further with Marian.

6. BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT

6a. Approval of the June 2017 Financial Statement. Lisa Dyer passed out the Actual & Budgeted Expenses & Encumbrances sheet. She estimated that there will be about \$30,000 left over from the 16/17 FY budget. **Lisa Donegan motioned to accept the report. John Lippert seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

6b. Approval of the Quarterly Budget Transfers. Lisa Donegan motioned to accept the transfers. John Calarese seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6c. FY 17 Year-End Budget Update. This was answered above in 6a.

6d. Lisa Dyer stated that the audit was started on the 16/17 budget. She also stated that the town treasurer would not accept any PO’s until the town budget has been passed.

7. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS. Principal Troy Hopkins stated that he had been doing a lot of work with committees. They now have a mission statement which was requested through the surveys that were sent out. He stated that one of the educators on staff was excellent in Math and that he would be helping students with extra help in math. Troy stated that this educator stated that it would help to keep the smaller classrooms.

There were no reports from the Asst. Principal or Director of Special Education.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Request for Family and Medical Leave of Absence. The Board took no action.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Annual Retreat Planning. The Board set a date for the Retreat for Aug. 24 from 4:30pm-7pm in the Media Center.

b. Revisit Cert. Staff Member Out-of-District Tuition of Students. One teacher wants to bring their child to Ashford Elem. School and would like to know what the tuition will be. Dr. Longo suggested \$1,000 for tuition based that the teacher would help with curriculum programming. Comments from the Board were that there may be an issue with the unions if he adds on duties to a teacher. Dr. Longo was going to check with the union representative on this subject. **Kim Rourke motioned to direct Dr. Longo to develop a memorandum of understanding with the AEA concerning non resident tuition after consulting with legal counsel. Kay Warren seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

c. FY 18 budget work session. This will be done at the next meeting.

10. Next meeting Date/Agenda Items. The next BOE meeting will be Aug. 24 at 7 pm in the media center immediately following the retreat.

Lisa Donegan made mention of getting the fall sports information out earlier, especially try out information and any necessary forms. Last year it did not get out to the public in time. Mr. Hopkins will follow up on this.

11. Second Opportunity for Public Comment

12. ADJOURNMENT. Kim Rourke motioned to adjourn. John Calarese seconded. Unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Minutes taken by

Kay M. Warren

Secretary to the Board of Education