

Board of Education Minutes
February 18, 2009

A budget workshop was held on Wednesday, February 18, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Music Room. Present were Dr. Robert, Mr. McCord, Mr. Testa, Mr. Briscoe, Mrs. Ricker, Mrs. Banker, and Mr. Keane. Also present were Dr. Pukas and Mr. McCarthy. The workshop began at 7:11 p.m.

1. Presentation of Central Office Portion of the Proposed 2009-2010 Education Budget - Mr. McCarthy explained the changes that were made since the last version. There was comment and questions. He reviewed the Central Office budget and elaborated on the line items. There was comment. Questions were asked and answered.

2. Discussion of Budget Strategies for the Proposed 2009-2010 Education Budget -- Mrs. Ricker passed out information gathered from the Community Survey regarding the budget. She explained the handout. There was comment. Mr. Briscoe asked for a three year plan for painting, carpeting and tiles. Mr. McCarthy said Mr. Boucher gave that to him late this afternoon. Dr. Pukas said she was meeting with the group on Monday so she could give them budget direction. There was further comment. There was discussion of a maintenance schedule. Questions were asked about the substitute custodian and contracted services and if we are doing everything we possibly can in-house. Mr. McCarthy explained we don't contract anything if we can do it ourselves. There was discussion of educational services. There was discussion of showing the true cost of running the school system and minimal cuts doing more harm than good. There was discussion of it coming down to personnel and contractual obligations and reaching out to the unions. There was further discussion. There was discussion of looking at personnel to see how we can better utilize them. There was further discussion of the budget coming down to personnel when cuts need to be made. Dr. Pukas had comment. She explained the scenario quite a number of years ago when the union agreed to a giveback. There was discussion and comment. Suggestions were made including leaving the reading teacher, textbooks, and business class supplies, and looking at the sports' programs before looking at staff reductions. Other suggestions and comments were made. There was further discussion.

The workshop ended at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education