

Board of Education Minutes
Budget Workshop
March 7, 2012

A budget workshop was held on Tuesday, March 7, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Dr. Robert, Mr. McCord, Mr. Testa, Mr. Scarchilli, Mr. Hundt, Mr. Mathwich, Mrs. Dame, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mr. Sandford, Mr. Apicelli, Mr. Boucher, and Mr. Pont. The workshop began at 7:05 p.m.

1. Discussion of 2012-13 Proposed Education Budget – Dr. Robert opened the workshop and asked if Board members had questions. Questions were asked of Mr. Boucher regarding the maintenance budget. It was suggested to have the issue of setting money aside for building maintenance be part of the budget presentation. There was discussion of the state law allowing money to be set aside from returned funds for school building maintenance. Questions were asked and answered about transportation. Questions were asked and answered about homework club at the middle school. Questions were asked and answered about the increase in days for the Associate Principal. There was further explanation and discussion. Suggestions were made for computer pre-buys and a floor machine. There was discussion of the computer lab pre-buys. There was discussion of end-of-year funds. There was discussion of other areas of the budget. Dr. Pukas asked the Board what they might be looking for in a bottom line. She had explanation and elaborated. There was discussion about a percentage. There were questions asked and answered about insurance increases. Reduction ideas given were the pre-school teacher based on enrollment and one pre-school aide. Mrs. Costa had comment and explanation. Questions were asked and answered. Questions were asked about fixed costs. There was comment and discussion. There was a proposal made to come in at 3% and make 1% of it maintenance and technology and the remaining for the schools. There was discussion. There was discussion of the average percentage increase over five years of .9%. A suggestion was made to come in at 3.5%. There was discussion of the positions funded with the Jobs Grant. There was further discussion of a budget percentage. There was further discussion of budget content. There was a suggestion to reduce it to 3% and 2.5%. There was further discussion about the increase of tuition costs. There was discussion of being able to back up the requests. The consensus was to bring the budget to 3%. The budget workshop tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 13th, will be cancelled.

The workshop ended at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education