

VOLUNTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
195 Main Street Voluntown CT 06384
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS: Adam S. Burrows
Board Chair – Diana Ingraham

Barbara Gileau
James Hutchins, Vice-Chairperson
Vikki Smith

Cathy Grant, Secretary
Robert Iovino

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BOARD MINUTES

**2013-2014 Budget Hearing &
Regular Board Meeting**

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Board of Education Meeting Room - 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Present: Barbara Gileau, Diana Ingraham [Board Chair], Cathy Grant [Secretary], Vikki Smith (8:08)
Absent: James Hutchins [Vice Chair], Robert Iovino
Also Present: Superintendent Adam Burrows, Alicia Dawe, Principal, and Dr. Elaine Lee, Director of Special Education

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited

PUBLIC HEARING 13-14 BUDGET The Board Chair opened the Public Hearing on the 2013-2014 Board of Education Budget. The Board reviewed the 2013-2014 Proposed Board of Education Budget as submitted. It was noted, the proposed Budget is \$6,396,003 which represents an increase of \$124,980 or 1.99% over the 2012-2013 total of \$6,271,022. The goal is to again make every effort to develop a budget proposal with a sincere understanding of the cost impact to local property taxes. Therefore, this proposal must be carefully reviewed and adjustments considered during these challenging economic times. The ultimate goal is to meet the educational needs of students. We are waiting for a confirmation of the actual state and federal contributions to the Town for education. Patricia Thevenet and Jack Wesa were present and asked various questions about the Budget.

CONSENT AGENDA: **MOTION #1 - 04/11/13:** made by Cathy Grant **SECONDED BY** Vikki Smith that the Board of Education accepts the Consent Agenda as presented
VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS; MOTION CARRIES

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT Alicia Dawe presented the Principal's Report that highlighted information about "staying green" by receiving daily communications via e-mail, the school website and Principal website; **Curriculum/Instruction/Learning:** grade levels have been meeting bi-weekly to discuss student achievement, Jim Huggins, Director of Teaching and Learning from EASTCONN, met with our teachers to provide an overview of the Connecticut state guidelines that we will be incorporating within the Voluntown Public Schools Teacher Evaluation Plan, **Title I/RTI Services:** Principal Dawe reviewed the Overall Summary of Students Receiving Title I/RTI Services for January to May 2013; **Community/Public Relations:** the 8th Family Academy was held March 19, 2013 and the topic was "Motivation, at Home and in the Classroom", the 9th Family Academy is scheduled for April 23, 2013 and the topic will be "Accessing Power School and the Internet"; "One Million Bones" involved our 6-8th grade students – it is a large-scale social arts practice using education and hands-on art making to raise awareness of genocides and atrocities going on around the world.

SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT Dr. Elaine Lee presented the Special Education Report and highlighted information about **Enrollment: Pre-K through 8th Grade:** there are thirty four (34) students receiving Special Education services. **High School:** There are three (3) students receiving special

education services; **Out-Placed Students:** there are ten (10) students out-placed; **Pre-School Program:** there are seventeen (17) students in the program; **Enrollment Projections:** it is anticipated there will be nine (9) out-placed students for the 2013-2014 school year. **504 Students:** there are twenty-four (24) students receiving 504 services. **The Alternative 5th through 8th Grade Program** continues to provide valuable services to both special and regular education students – for the 2013-2014 school year there will be (17) students receiving services in this program; **Professional Development:** Nancy Vitali continues to provide support during the 2012-2013 school year as part of the ongoing process to effectively implement Common Core State Standards; **Development of Goals and Objectives for Special Education Students:** teachers align goals with Connecticut Common Core Standards and follow grade level curriculum based on students' needs and/or abilities; **Pre-School Program:** there are presently four students on a waiting list for the 2013-2014 school year; **Quinnebaug Middle College:** Voluntown students have expressed a great deal of interest about the college and have been invited to visit the facility and meet with the student body and staff; **Evaluations:** Evaluations were completed this year for Psycho-educational evaluation, speech and language, occupational therapy, physical therapy and behavioral evaluations.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Burrows reviewed his calendar of events for May & Jun 2013, the March 14, 2013 Board Briefs and enrollment report that noted, as of 4/5/13, there are 312 students (Pre-K through 8th Grade) plus 121 High School Students. Mr. Burrows submitted the Special Education Program Tuition Costs 05/06 through 13/14 and Estimated Tuition Costs for 2013-2014.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Youth Services Bureau: The YSB part-time Coordinator held an open house last week and it was well attended. The Voluntown community is excited to work with the Youth Service Bureau to develop a resource and enrichment program for children and families throughout the town. Adam Shaughnessy was recently appointed by the YSB Advisory Board as the part-time Coordinator; **School Community Safety Team:** continues to meet and discuss various options and plans associated with school security; **Library:** a survey will be developed for teachers to determine the types of periodicals they would like to have in the Library.

SCHOOL READINESS ENROLLMENT

MOTION #2 - 04/11/13: made by Cathy Grant SECONDED BY Vikki Smith that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, to raise the enrollment limit of the Voluntown Elementary School Readiness Program if approved by the State Department of Education

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;

MOTION CARRIES

STAIRWAY DESIGN

Mr. Burrows displayed draft design plans for the stairway to Constitution Field. The Board allocated funds for the design plans. The Town is reviewing the possibility of using LOCIP funds for this project.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

A green leaf program was recently completed as part of our efforts to continuously improve energy conservation.

TEACHER EVALUATION COMMITTEE

MOTION #3 - 04/11/13: made by Vikki Smith SECONDED BY Cathy Grant that the Board of Education authorizes the Board Chair to sign the Voluntown Elementary Professional Learning & Evaluation Plan and submit it to the State Department of Education

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;

MOTION CARRIES

POLICY #6114 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

MOTION #4 - 04/11/13: made by Cathy Grant SECONDED BY Vikki Smith that the Board of Education approves Policy #6114 Emergency and Disaster Plan as presented

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;

MOTION CARRIES

BOARD ACTION GOALS

There was Board consensus to modify the action goals to a more broad-based format and to table this item to the Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2013.

REVIEW 3000 SERIES

The Board tabled this item to the Board meeting scheduled for May 9, 2013.

