

VOLUNTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS: Adam S. Burrows

Diana Ingraham – Board Chair

Kate Beuparlant

Flo Harman

Kristin Trahan – Vice-Chair

Barbara Gileau – Secretary

Skart Paul

Christopher Wilson

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Special Meeting

Thursday, November 30, 2017
Board of Education Meeting Room - 7:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER Chairperson Diana Ingraham called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE Present: Diana Ingraham, Barbara Gileau, Kristin Trahan, Christopher Wilson,
Kate Beuparlant, Flo Harman and Skart Paul (arrived at 7:10 p.m.)

Absent:

Also Present: Superintendent Adam S. Burrows

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. CITIZEN COMMENTS Wendy Gauthier, Skipp Oulton and Nancy MacBride were present. No comments were made.

IV. GUESTS None

V. 2017-2018 Budget Proposal

Superintendent Burrows reviewed the monthly history of the development and adjustments of this budget during these challenging budget times.

The Board of Education presented a 2017-18 budget proposal at the June Town Meeting for a total of \$6,905,174 which represented a 1.59% or \$108,118 increase over the 2016-17 budget of \$6,797,059. The Town, at the request of the Boards of Education and Selectmen did not approve the budget which means we have maintained a temporary 0% increase. The school district, therefore, has been working with same amount of money as the previous year. Our school system has been proactive since July 1, 2017 because the Board of Education has implemented several cost-saving measures until the state budget passed.

The cut in our current 2017-18 Educational Cost Sharing or ECS grant from the State of Connecticut was first listed as \$1,001,048. The cut then changed at the end of the summer to \$367,092. The State Legislators then approved an ECS cut of \$125,131 and just a few weeks ago (in November) the Governor mandated a “holdback” of \$327,930 for Voluntown.

Superintendent Burrows distributed and reviewed, section by section, an adjusted 2017-18 budget proposal of \$6,785,654 which represents a DECREASE of 0.17% or \$11,405 as compared to the 2016-17 budget of \$6,797,059. Mr. Burrows noted that this proposal seeks to reduce the Mill Rate increase in an effort to support local taxpayers while still maintaining an appropriate educational program for the youth of our community.

Mr. Burrows also noted that the school district has returned revenue to the Town Treasury in the amount of \$35,989.60 in 2016-17 and as of this date \$21,330.01 is projected to be returned for the 2017-18 school year. He expressed the need to talk with the Board of Selectmen about using this revenue from the Town Treasury for reducing an additional increase to the Mill Rate.

During the discussion time, Skart Paul expressed that he will not support a budget without more time to review this budget proposal. Board members Gileau, Ingraham and Trahan mentioned that this budget has been presented, reviewed and revised monthly since January and expressed apologies that newly elected Board Members have not had the same amount of time in dealing with this budget and reductions in state funding that have been made throughout the school year. Christopher Wilson stated that he will not support a budget that increases the Town’s Mill Rate.

MOTION #1 (11/30/17) was made (Trahan, Gileau) that the Board of Education approve the proposed 2017-18 Budget of \$6,785,654 which represents a DECREASE of 0.17% or \$11,405 as compared to the 2016-17 budget of \$6,797,059.

Votes “in favor” were made by Beuparlant, Gileau, Harman, Ingraham, and Trahan.

Votes “opposed” were made by Paul and Wilson.

Motion passes.

The Board of Education agreed to schedule a Budget Hearing on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education meeting room to review the above Board of Education budget proposal. The Board of Selectmen has tentatively scheduled a town meeting for Wednesday, December 20, 2017 for the citizens to vote on both the Selectmen and Education budgets.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #2 (11/30/17) was made (Gileau, Wilson) to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.; ALL IN FAVOR.

Witness

Date

Attest

Date

Respectfully Drafted and Edited by:
Dee Dee Jackman, Board of Education Clerk
Adam S. Burrows, Superintendent of Schools