

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2015
(Unofficial Until Board Approval)

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairman Erika Wiecenski at the Hall Memorial School Library.

PRESENT: Erika Wiecenski, Mark Jones, Barry Wallett, Herb Arico,
Superintendent David Harding

ABSENT: Michelle Cunningham, Ann Grosjean

COMMUNICATIONS:

None

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

None

BUDGET WORKSHOP:

Superintendent presented the next draft of the budget for a total of \$7,906,963.00 at a 0% change. He answered the Board's questions from the last workshop meeting and showed new spreadsheets containing the information.

He stated the number of Special Education students was at 80 and an additional 13 were 504 students. Members discussed this number which has remained around 75-85 consistently through the years even as total enrollment goes up and down. Discussion around services and the teachers took place. Some students only receive speech and language services while others receive multiple services. There are multiple meetings throughout the year to discuss the student's needs and revision of the IEP's for each student. There are currently two out of district placements.

Superintendent Harding handed out charts for the 323 and 590 accounts and explained the breakdown of each. He reviewed the positions page that was added which specified all the certified and non-certified positions at each school and notes about how some positions are funded such as from grants.

Board discussed the para-professional positions and how some are employed by the school through the non-certified union and some are contracted through EastConn. They discussed how the paras are assigned and moved around as the student's needs change.

Superintendent presented the snapshot of the three years for salaries, benefits, and the total for the BOE. He has not yet added the narrative to this page but will add that before the presentation to the Board of Finance for clarity.

He stated that each year has gone in the direction he has forecasted. Due to the declining enrollment, taking a logical approach and the benefit package being an attractive deal the numbers have been able to decrease.

MOTION: by Herb Arico, seconded by Erika Wiecenski, to approve the Board of Education Budget for July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$7,906,963.00.

VOTE: All in Favor
Motion Passed

Superintendent informed the Board that he will be presenting the budget at the Board of Finance meeting next Thursday and would welcome any Board member support.

TECHNOLOGY GRANT:

Superintendent Harding explained the grant is for the equipment and infrastructure, not professional development.

MOTION: by Barry Wallett, seconded by Mark Jones, to approve the Technology Grant as discussed for Wellington.

VOTE: All in Favor
Motion Passed

Board asked about the cost difference between the Chromebooks and iPads with Superintendent replying that Chromebooks are a little less at about \$400 each vs. iPads at about \$450-\$470 each with the insurance

Board will have discussions at a future meeting to make decisions about which path to take with technology.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

Peter Latincsis arrived and asked for a copy of the budget which Superintendent Harding will email to him once it is edited.

BOARD COMMENTS:

None

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Nichole Page
Recording Secretary