

Minutes of the Town of Farmington
Regular Town Council Meeting
March 11, 2020

Present:

C. J. Thomas, Chair
Joe Capodiferro
Brian F. X. Connolly
Christopher Fagan
Edward Giannaros
Peter Mastrobattista

Kathy Blonski, Town Manager
Anna Savastano, Management Asst.

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Council and members of the public recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Public Comment

Emily Kaliney of 30 High Street asked the Council to keep the Board of Education budget intact. She encouraged the Town Council to keep the big picture view in mind and focus on that goal. She urged the Town Council be fiscally responsible but still offer the services the Town expects and are accustomed to.

Matt Hutvagner of 40 Depot Road said he was concerned that further cuts to the Board of Education's budget will hurt the Town's Strategic Plan and urged the Council to approve the Board's budget as is.

Tim Kelly of 62 Westview Terrace said that the two biggest factors to the budget are personnel salaries and benefits. He urged the Council to not add to the headcount. He stressed that money should be prioritized towards the classroom.

D. To consider and take action on the proposed FY 2020-2021 Budget

Ellen Siuta, Board of Education Chair; Kathy Greider, Superintendent of Schools; Kim Wynne, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Matt Ross, Director of Technology and Alicia Bowman, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Administration joined the Council to review the Board of Education's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Recommended Budget.

Salaries

The following subjects were discussed:

- Overall number of FTE's and Administrators in the budget

- How staffing efficiencies were made in the budget
- If the budget were to be reduced to a 3% level what areas would be affected
- Student enrollment projections
- Thoughts on redistricting
- Increased student need
- The role of paraprofessionals in the schools
- Possible future mandates and possible impacts on staffing
- Salary negotiations for the nurses

Benefits

The following subjects were discussed:

- Self-Insurance history and current issues
- General health claims trending higher and catastrophic claims are higher
- September renewal date makes budgeting future year expenses difficult
- Stop loss coverage still a problem, but not as bad as last year

Services

The following subjects were discussed:

- The increase in the account was driven by more student needs
- State mandated summer learning and non-State mandated summer learning
- The replacement of many school printers with copiers to save money

Supplies

The following subjects were discussed:

- Supplies are flat across most accounts for next year

Equipment

The following subjects were discussed:

- The chrome book purchase and chrome book use
- The insurance program for chrome books

Dues & Fees

There was no discussion on dues & fees.

Capital Improvement Plan

The following subjects were discussed:

- Where the new furniture will be allocated
- Potential areas for reductions

Grants

The following subjects were discussed:

- The use of Open Choice money and future grant levels
- Farmington High School is no longer considered as Title 1 School by the Federal Government therefore tutors needed to added back into the budget
- The potential for reduced reimbursements from the Excess Cost Sharing Grant for special education because of new proposals from the Governor
- Cost differentials between teacher's salary across the state
- Discussion on the impact of additional cuts to achieve the 3% budget target

The Town Council and the Board of Education thanked each other for their hard work to date and each expressed that they were looking forward to working collaboratively on the budget.

E. Adjourn to Executive Session

There was no Executive Session held.

F. Adjournment

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to adjourn the meeting at 5:43 p.m.

Adopted unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anna Savastano".

Anna Savastano