

**HAMPTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
HAMPTON, CT**

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

October 3, 2013

The meeting was called to order by board chair John Burnham at 6:30 PM. Members present were Carol Misak, Ann Gruenberg, Catherine Wade, Rose Bisson, and Maryellen Donnelly. Also present were Superintendent of Schools Paul Graseck, Principal Elise Guari, and Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux. Board member Doug Stewart arrived at 6:49 PM and board member Joan Fox arrived at 7:15 PM. Unable to attend was board member Lisa Siegmund.

2. Audience for Staff: Linda Sanchini discussed the budgetary impact on Grade 3 if proposed cuts were made.

Ann Folan, PE teacher also discussed the impact of proposed cuts on various PE classes, the drama production, fuel-up program and the music program. She has donated her prep time for the last 14 years.

Susan Steinruck, a full-time paraprofessional discussed the impact cuts to the support staff would have on the students.

Maryellen Kania also discussed the impact of proposed cuts.

Cheryl Penrod, a 29 year veteran paraprofessional also detailed the impact on direct services to students.

James Shifrin – Sped teacher spoke in support of all paras currently on staff. Further reductions in budget would impact ability to meet mandated services.

Brenda Dinsmore, a paraprofessional at HES has a son who attended and HES and had great success. It would be a shame to reduce services at the school.

Elizabeth Lindorff cringes at thought of cutting arts program as they are critical to learning for all students. Ms. Lindorff discussed what arts teach and how they help thought processes and how things are learned.

Lark Peck, the music teacher would like to continue programs at the school. Consider what would be cut or reduced.

Sam Roberson – here to support BOE in the effort to maintain programs here at the school. Budget cuts will be felt in many ways, including:

- A decrease in the number of students that will receive individual serves that don't have an IEP;
- There are a number of issues that will fall on administration and parents to resolve;
- Classroom time for character development will be curtailed;
- Safety education programs could be impacted;
- Programs for the community curtailed.

April Basch, the 6th grade teacher, offered her perspective as a new employee and commented the school was a tremendous asset.

Deborah Leavens – The state establishes MBR and a school must not spend less than they did the previous year, but BOF found a way to move around the MBR and take from elementary grades. What BOF is trying to do is unethical and wrong. Mr. Burnham responded the Board of Finance was acting within their rights and the MBR was not violated by their interpretation. Nor are any of the cuts endorsed by the Board of Education, but are a picture of what would occur if the referendum is successful.

Richard LeBlanc, 5th grade teacher, brings experience from five other districts and has never seen such drastic cuts implemented. Cuts will make teachers unable to serve students how they see fit. Mr. Leblanc spoke of importance of specials and how they impact the students and learning in the school.

3. Audience for Citizens:

Mark Becker – Encourages everyone that can to come to the meeting on Friday. Agrees with what staff has said and those voices would be critical at the meeting on Friday evening. Please don't take what they (BOE) are forced to do personally. Mr. Becker appreciates the effort of board. The administration is doing an amazing job pulling the school up from where it was a few years ago and administration needs to stay intact. Mr. Becker also asked when the withdrawal from COC was. Withdrew from Central Office in 2006/7.

Irene Brown just wanted to express her support for the school and feels the frustration. Anything to reach the parents of the young children, they'll do. People don't understand the importance of administration and how that functions. People don't understand the mandates of the state. Much is underwritten by the state and there is a great deal of administration. Families do pull kids out and send to private school, but public schools must accept all students that come to them.

Mr. Burnham reminded the audience that the list of cuts are not endorsed by the Board of Education, and the board has not passed a budget that reflects the cuts.

Ann Gruenberg thanked the audience for their attendance. Board is not advocating for these cuts. Ultimate decisions are made by the voters. They are not endorsing this budget if it passes.

Dr. Graseck also made a statement regarding the impact to public education if the proposed cuts must be made.

4. 2013/2014 Budget:

A list of previously discussed cuts were distributed for discussion. These are forced cuts that the board does not endorse. The board will present a document that will outline all the cuts that would be implemented if the budget is passed. After a discussion of all the proposed cuts and the difficulty of presenting the options, **Rose Bisson moved the BOE make but not endorse or support the following cuts if the budget referendum on 10.15.13 is passed.**

Cuts made previously:

Cafeteria Account: 7,000

Cuts made 10/3/13 (and included in this motion):

Instructional Supplies: 10,254

Heating Oil:	7,500	Textbooks:	5,022
Paraprofessional Spousal Insurance:	4,540	Add'l reduction of time to Bus. Coord. Position:	4,427
½ of Secretary's Spousal Prem. Share of Noncert. Wage Increase:	8,323	Eliminate ½ para. Position:	6,488
Reduce Business Coord. Salary:	10,971	Reduce Art Teacher Time:	4,561
Instructional Supplies:	2,775	Cut Lib/Media Ctr Position:	6,629
	<u>2,400</u>	Reduce Guidance Counselor Position:	6,435
	\$43,509	Reduce Reading Specialist:	25,907
		Reduce Music Program:	5,644
		Reduce Library Books:	2,233
		<u>Cut General Supplies:</u>	<u>3,000</u>
			\$80,600

Carol Misak second the motion. After a discussion of the proposed cuts, the motion carried with the following vote:

YES: J. Burnham, R. Bisson, C. Misak, M. Donnelly

NO: D. Stewart, J. Fox, C. Wade

ABSTAIN: A. Gruenberg

5. Audience for Staff/Citizens:

Deb Leavens asked if staff is allowed to speak at the town meeting. The board responded that yes, attendees are permitted to speak as long as they are recognized by the moderator. Ms. Leavens also appreciated the strength to vote 'No' or 'abstain'.

Mark Becker asked what other programs were cut the previous year. The board responded that guidance, PE, and a paraprofessional position had been cut the previous year.

Irene Brown commented that the music program is now extremely low and she wasn't sure how much more could be cut.

Brenda Dinsmore wanted clarification regarding the impact of the ½ para reduction. This reduction would result in the current position filled by a substitute not continuing.

Rose Bisson moved to adjourn at 7:55 PM. Doug Stewart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Nelson, recording secretary

