

Region #9 Board of Education
Meeting of the Committee on Financial Oversight
May 11th, 2005
Location: Joel Barlow High School Redding, CT
Joint meeting with the Board of Education

Attendance: Coppinger, Heller, Herrmann, Poltrack, Bonfanti, DeSalvo and Gombos
Board Members: Eichhorn, Shapiro, Pemberton, Harris and Gmelin
Admin: Fossbender, Calabro, Mayday, Craw, Haig, and Goodpaster
Public: Various

Ms. Gombos calls the meeting to order at 7:14pm.

Public Comment:

Nick Simeonidis

Cautions the board to consider the turn out at the referendum when deciding on budget cuts.

Cynthia Sproviero

Presents results of an email survey about the budget referendum held on May 3rd.

Chris Kearny presents a letter from the RES PTA

Mary Pat Cieri

Comments on the May 3rd referendum and more information on the email survey.

Motion: to move item #5 public Comment to item #4 on the
Maker Heller/Poltrack
Motion passes unanimously

Mr. Calabro presents the budget reductions/savings

Various discussions of the alternatives

Motion: That the FOC recommend the Board of Education accept the deductions to the proposed 2005-06 Budget detailed in the "Budget Reduction/Savings" document with a total reduction \$230,774 for a total 2005-06 budget \$16,288,904 (an increase of 5.75% over the 2004-05 budget).

Maker Coppinger/Heller

Further discussion Mr. Bonfanti thinks we went a little too far on one of the items.

Motion passes 6 in favor and Bonfanti opposed.

Public Comment:

Mary Pat Cieri:

The board is not addressing the fact that many people are angry about the building project.

Lori Givney:

Thanks the board for their efforts on behalf of the town, but believes they are not listening to public. The board needs to communicate with the public better.

Chris Kearny:

Reads comments of Sally Funell who had to leave early.

The board acted inappropriately tonight, they showed little respect for the public attending the meeting.

Fran Scharf

Asks about the mentoring program for 9th graders.

Mark Lewis

Comments on the relationship of house prices and the schools

Jim Givney

Is surprised that the board does not know why our per pupil spending is so much higher compared to other school.

The board needs to improve the marketing of the budget.

Does not understand the raise in the parking fees.

Jane McNulty

Thanks the board for retaining the two faculty positions.

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting

Maker Coppinger/Bonfanti

Respectfully submitted June 20th 2005

Paul N Coppinger

FOC Secretary