

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2012
Town Hall Lower Level Conference Room 7:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Jim Persano called the Board of Finance Special Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members: Jim Persano, Joseph Tolisano, Steve Krasinski, Marilyn Pronovost and Thomas Mazzoli were present and constituted a quorum. Also present Dr. Maynard Suffredini, Superintendent of Schools, David Palmer, Board of Education Chairman, Bill Boutwell Director of Business Services, First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini, Town CFO Kim Marcotte,
Absent: Michael Parker.

II. FY2013 BOARD OF EDUCATION PROPOSED BUDGET PRESENTATION:

Mr. Palmer provided opening remarks on the Board of Education budget and turned the presentation over to Dr. Suffredini. The Board of Education proposed budget is \$19,827,174 which is a \$492,857 (2.55%) increase. Dr. Suffredini compared the budget distribution of funds between the current fiscal year and the proposed FY2013 budget noting that salaries remain the largest component of the budgets at 65.1% in FY2012 and 64.9% for FY2013. There is a slight decrease for insurance and utilities. In FY2010 when there was no increase in the BOE budget there was reorganization and a reduction in personnel was necessary but the BOE was able to maintain programs and keep services in place. Health insurance continues to be a large component of the budget. The BOE continues to work with the unions through negotiations to reconfigure plan design and to reduce costs. Special Education is level funded at this time.

The major effort for the BOE in this budget is to infuse new technology into the school system. New Technology accounts for approximately 1% of the 2.55% increase that the BOE is requesting. In the 2014/2015 fiscal year the State will require electronic testing for CMT and CAPT. The iPad format being proposed will permit the movement to electronic education including testing, homework and lesson planning. The BOE is looking for the best purchasing option and prices for the units continue to drop. The goal is to provide equipment for each child and the BOE is looking to purchase 300 units per year to meet that goal. Professional development for the teaching staff, interactive whiteboard technology and projectors so that all classrooms are fully equipped are also included in the budget request. The BOE is very proud of the T.I.D.E. program which has been awarded the International Technology Engineering Association Program Excellence Award and the Connecticut Technology Education Association Program of the Year Award. As in the past, the BOE is looking for CIP funding (\$65,000) to address the replacement of computers and laptops in the schools.

There is a budget request for Co-op Sports which is new. Due to the size of the Somers program, Somers co-ops with the Towns of Ellington, Enfield and Tri-Town for football, hockey, swimming and tennis. Up to now the parents have been contributing to the teams not the BOE.

Tuition Non-Special Education covers the cost of students attending other districts or magnet schools. There are approximately 10 students who participate in this option.

A question was asked about the electronic testing. Dr. Suffredini indicated that the School Systems have been given advance notice and warned on the requirement. The State is also considering ways to administer the testing to lessen the cost impact to school system including staggering the testing.

Mr. Krasinski asked if the step advances were in the salary increases. Dr. Suffredini confirmed that they were.

Mr. Mazzoli questioned the increase to the legal costs. Dr. Suffredini indicated that the BOE required funds above what is currently in their budget. As the increase is due to pending litigation, it could not be discussed.

Mr. Krasinski asked if there was a detailed breakdown of the BOE's proposed budget. Mr. Palmer distributed the Somers Board of Education Summary by Budget Category report. The CIP list is not in the budget request and will be emailed to the Board of Finance. The school building roofs were and their condition/replacement were briefly discussed.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made to adjourn the Board of Finance Special Meeting by Mr. Persano at 7:45 p.m. It was seconded by Mr. Mazzoli. All were in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Marcotte, CFO

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL ACCEPTED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING