

Orange Board of Education Special Budget Workshop Meeting
February 15, 2017

Attendees: W. Kraut, C. Bunnell, B. Hadlock, K. Browe, S. Riccio, K. Ziman, M. Saccente, J. Cap, V. Scarpetti, S. Slowik, E. Russo, M. Sierakowski, M. Ullring

Meeting called to order at 6:14 p.m.

Motion by M. Saccente to open the agenda to add discussion of the allergy policy

Seconded by S. Riccio

Discussion – none

Motion to amend the agenda was passed unanimously.

Discussion

M. Saccente asked members to review correspondence sent regarding request for food free birthday celebrations as well as information about cafeteria providing food for celebrations. Members discussed the pros and cons for 10 minutes. The issue will be discussed at the next subcommittee meeting as well as during the discussion of the food allergy policy discussion.

The current budget increase is at 1.89% this increase includes proposals for adjustments in Special Education and IT.

Discussion started with an overview of staffing. The Special Education position changes are off set by reducing a paraprofessional position and by no longer contracting out for the services. Information was presented on the overall staffing levels of Special Education. The IT Department has requested to convert the Tier 1 techs from 3 part-time positions to 2 full time positions. Discussion followed regarding the current needs of the IT Department as well as pros and cons of making any changes.

General discussion of the 17-18 budget as well as how to realize additional savings. Board members were presented with a page of unfunded mandates. Brief discussion on this topic and if there is a way to quantify the actual cost to the Board of Education as well as who in the Board Office works on this. M. Sierakowski shared that it is difficult to quantify as so many of the positions work on different mandates.

An in-depth discussion followed regarding the IT Department staffing as well as the hardware needs of the district. Board members support replacement of older teacher laptops and student computers; however, did not agree to fund 1:1 computers in 1st and 2nd grade. The Board agreed to hire 1.75 Tier 1 Techs. If additional savings in the IT portion of the budget can be realized the Board would agree to 2.0 full time Tier 1 techs.

K. Browe expressed the importance of including 21st Century in the overall Board budget. The 21st Century ad hoc committee will be making a proposal to the Board of Education for 21st Century to pay for services currently covered by the Board of Education staff.

Motion by S. Riccio to approve the FY 17-18 budget not to exceed 1.6 % increase.

Seconded by K. Browe.

No discussion on the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by S. Riccio at 10:06 p.m. and seconded by K. Ziman

No discussion.

Motion to adjourn was unanimous.