

March 5, 2012

A special meeting of the Brooklyn Board of Education was held on Monday, March 5, 2012 in the middle school library. The meeting was called to order at 4:34 PM with Ms. Gerardi-Voccio presiding. In attendance were Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Rossi, Mrs. Lyons, Attorney Kelley and Mrs. Trivella, representing the Board of Education; and Mrs. Berry, Superintendent of Schools. In the audience were 1st Selectman Tanner and members of the school staff and the community.

The agenda for this meeting included a discussion on the proposed 2012-2013 budget.

Mrs. Berry presented Draft I of the proposed budget and commented on those accounts which showed a change from the present year. During discussion on the proposed budget, Board members raised the following issues:

1. Enrollment and class size at the elementary school with a reduction of 2 teaching positions;
2. Killingly High and Woodstock Academy's proposed tuition increases for 2012-2013 and the impact of Killingly High School's capital costs on Brooklyn's budget;
3. Early retirement plan for certified staff;
4. Extra-curricular programs, specifically sports and pay for play program;
5. Elimination of the three year old pre-school program and the enrollment of 4 year old students only thus laying off one teacher and one paraprofessional;
6. Projected savings of a pre-school program with a pro-rated charge for attendance;
7. Staff furloughs (unpaid);
8. Brooklyn's primary responsibility is to provide a solid educational program with a fiscally sound budget;
9. Non-mandated programs are important to students and should not be cut if they represent our mission statement;
10. Reduction in number of designated high schools;
11. Autistic Program at the elementary and interest of other schools in sending students to Brooklyn;

Following the discussion on the issues noted above, Board members reviewed the enrollment projections for the 2012-2013 school year and the following motion was made:

MOTION (Johnson/Gerardi-Voccio) to reduce the proposed 2012-2013 budget by \$365,843 based on the enrollment projections for next year, the retirement of a custodian and the enrollment of only four (4) year old students in the pre-school program.

VOTE - 2 in favor, 4 opposed.
MOTION FAILED

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on March 12, 2012 at 5:30 PM.

MOTION (Trivella/Rossi) to adjourn at 6:30 PM

VOTE - Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Rossi
Secretary, Board of Education

LSB:lam