

March 19, 2012

A special meeting of the Brooklyn Board of Education was held on Monday, March 19, 2012 in the middle school library. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM with Ms. Gerardi-Voccio presiding. In attendance were Mrs. Johnson (arrived at 5:50 PM), Mr. Rossi, Mrs. Lyons, Mrs. Trivella, and Attorney Kelley representing the Board of Education; Mr. Ives, Chair of the Board of Finance; and Mrs. Berry, Superintendent of Schools. In the audience were members of the staff and the community.

The agenda for this meeting included:

A review of and further discussion of Draft II of the proposed budget for 2012 – 2013

During the public comment period:

- Mrs. Boyle, president of Local 1303, spoke on behalf of the members of the local union and urged the Board of Education to maintain existing staff positions.
- Mr. Klawitter spoke on the issue of maintaining two designated high schools.
- Mrs. Congdon-Marr, representative of the BEA urged the Board of Education members not to cut positions, programs or services.

During the board's discussion on the proposed budget, board members commented on the following issues:

- Interest in an early retirement plan;
- Capital costs of the Killingly High School building and the cost to Brooklyn;
- Special education costs;
- The increase in the town budget;
- The dangers in cutting the budget – the loss of programs which will not be restored;
- The services of the librarian and the involvement in the use of technology in this program; and
- The importance of taking a stand on the board's educational mission statement.

Following discussion on the proposed budget, the Board of Education took the following action;

MOTION: (Rossi/Gerardi-Voccio) to reduce the proposed 2012-2013 budget by \$231,011 which represents a reduction in the paraprofessional staff (\$159,098) and the custodial staff (\$71,913)

VOTE: In favor were Ms. Gerardi-Voccio, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lyons, Mrs. Trivella and Mr. Rossi. In opposition was Attorney Kelley.

With the above decision to reduce the budget by \$231,011, the increase in the proposed 2012-2013 budget which will be submitted to the Board of Finance on April 4, 2012 will be \$16,508,556, an increase over the present year of \$712,693.

MOTION: (Kelley/Rossi) to adjourn @ 7:15 PM

VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted

Robert Rossi  
Secretary, Board of Education

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