

The Board of Education

Town of Brooklyn
119 Gorman Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234

Aimee Genna, Chair
Joan Trivella, Vice Chair
Keith Atchinson, Secretary

Mae Lyons
Kelly Coddling
Nathan Richards

December 4, 2017

The Brooklyn Board of Education held a special meeting on December 4, 2017 in the Central Office Community Room. In attendance were: Mrs. Genna, Mrs. Coddling, Mr. Atchinson, Mrs. Lyons, Mrs. Trivella, Mrs. Buell, Superintendent, Mrs. Erickson, Finance Director, and Mr. Otto, Board of Finance. Members of the teaching staff and public were in the audience.

Mrs. Coddling arrived at 3:07 pm
Absent: Mr. Richards

1. Call to order

Mrs. Genna called the meeting to order at 2:54 pm

Mrs. Buell proposed the following reductions to the Board of Education members for their consideration:

- Early retirement incentive
- Reduce custodian
- Common schedule - reduce 2 buses
- 2 Furlough days
- Pre-K schedule - reduce session by 15-20 minutes to reduce to 2 buses
- BMS Paraprofessional - reduce / reschedule paraprofessional coverage
- Health Teacher at BES
- Technical Education
- Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant - reduce to 22 hours per week
- Assistant Financial Secretary - reduce to 4 days per week
- Superintendent - reduce to 4 days per week
- BES Principal - give up raise / give back travel / PD
- Special Education Director - give up raise / give back travel / PD
- Administrative Give Backs - Give up travel / PD
- Behaviorist - reduce to 4 days per week
- Reduce BMS Principal - reduce to 3 days per week
- Reduce one Library Media Center staff

2. Public Comment

Mr. Otto recommended that the Board of Education members consider not reducing the Superintendent's hours.

Mr. Ives stated that the town has approximately \$130,000 to contribute to the shortfalls.

An audience member asked if transportation for pre-k was a requirement.

An audience member, Jason, asked for clarification and an update on the class action lawsuit against Governor Malloy.

A.J. Kerouac asked if there were any savings when the new positions for the 2017-2018 school year were not filled. He also urged the Board of Education member to consider eliminating the preschool program in that it would be an enormous reduction to the budget.

Steve Osga clarified that the class action lawsuit against Governor Malloy has been dropped.

Mrs. Eslip stated that she supported eliminating pre-k for 3 year olds, but opposed eliminating pre-k for 4 year olds, and charging families for the program.

Arturo Gutierrez asked when the town will be informed as to any changes, and suggested a town meeting.

Mrs. Genna stated that pre-k is not a required program, and the district is not required to provide transportation.

Mrs. Trivella strongly suggested contacting Killingly High School and rectifying the billing discrepancy for high school tuition. The tuition bill was much more than Killingly quoted the district. The increase was considerable, and not budgeted for.

Mrs. Coddington suggested cutting an assistant principal rather than a teacher.

Mrs. Lyons suggested incorporating music and art into the regular core schedule.

Mrs. Trivella thanked Mr. Otto and Mr. Ives for their help.

Mr. Atchinson suggested looking into a more efficient way to obtain school supplies for classrooms.

Mr. Otto suggested starting discussions for a regional special education facility for outplaced students.

3. Budget Reductions - Fiscal Year 2018

The Board of Education members agreed that they would not be reducing the hours of the Superintendent. Reducing the hours of the Superintendent was removed from the presented list, in that Tech Education was counted twice on the spreadsheet.

Motion to approve the reductions as presented, leaving \$21,475 to be found
(Trivella / Lyons)

Unanimous vote to approve

The total savings reflected from the above reductions is \$298,646.00

4. Public Comment

Mr. Anderson thanked Mrs. Buell. He suggested contacting Killingly High School and asking for satisfaction, starting discussions for designating a high school, and looking into reducing bus schedules for high school students.

Enrica Desabota thanked the administration for coming together and absorbing some of the reductions for the betterment of the students.

An audience member, Jason, stated that Killingly High School should not be charging a premium price if they are not offering a premium education. He stated that the town's mill rate needs to be increased.

A.J. Kerouac asked for clarification on items 16, 17 and 18. He cautioned the Board of Education member against designating a high school in that people like choice, it is a draw for people to the Town of Brooklyn.

Mr. Ives stated that they can try for a Town Meeting in December, possibly December 21st.

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 4:00 pm
(Trivella / Coddington)

Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted
Joann M. Engel
Recording Secretary