



Board of Education Regular Meeting

January 25, 2021 7:00 PM
via Zoom Teleconference

Attendance Taken at: 7:00 PM

Present Board Members

Erica Gelven
Michael Hornyak
Jason Adler
Christopher Passante (joined at 7:19 PM)
Kimberly Russo
Catherine Staunton

1. Opening Exercises

1.A. Roll call

Discussion: Also in attendance were Superintendent Maryann O'Donnell, Assistant Superintendent Marco Famiglietti, Business Manager Carolyn Dickey, and student representatives Emma Lindsay, Aiden Maurais, and Jessica Flanagan.

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion: All recited the pledge.

2. Public participation/recognition

There was no public participation.

3. Minutes – Approval - Regular Meeting of January 4, 2021

Motion Passed: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 4, 2021, passed with a motion by Jason Adler and a second by Kimberly Russo.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays

Erica Gelven	Yes
Michael Hornyak	Yes
Jason Adler	Yes
Kimberly Russo	Yes
Catherine Staunton	Yes

4. Superintendent's Proposed 2021-2022 Budget

Discussion: The Superintendent presented her proposed 2021-2022 budget formally to the Board. The budget summary sheets, as well as the budget by object, were included in the Board package. The Board also received a list identifying adjustments made since the draft budget that was discussed at the January 20 Budget & Finance meeting. The operating budget request was presented at \$34,198,191, an increase of \$997,800, or 3.01%.

The Board's approval of the operating budget will be on its February 1 agenda. Once approved, the budget will be presented to the Town of Clinton. M. O'Donnell discussed the budget's

support of the district's mission, goals, and strategic priorities including curriculum initiatives and student achievement. Curriculum initiatives include early literacy materials at Joel and instructional software at all grade levels.

The driving forces of the budget increase were presented including a possible increase in employee benefits costs of up to 7.23% due to health insurance increases. This rise accounts for almost half of the operating budget increase.

Line item changes were reviewed indicating savings in some areas and increases in others. Administration has been diligent in trying to find offsets to any increases. Areas of increase include actuary reports and legal costs, staff development, liability/property insurance, and district software. Areas of saving include tuition for magnet and VoAg schools, instructional supplies and textbooks, and public utilities.

M. O'Donnell's final adjustments were detailed including the removal of a proposed additional math teacher that could move forward if grant funding is available. In addition, adjustments to various salary lines to reflect actual projected costs and the employee benefit lines were noted. The status of the Board of Education budget components (Operating, Capital, and Debt Service) were also provided.

M. O'Donnell thanked teachers, staff, administrators, and the Board of Education for their support in developing the budget.

An opportunity for questions/clarification was provided. Questions regarding the Eliot uniforms, taxpayer savings, literacy materials, Chromebooks, and membership with CAFE were fielded. Any other questions that arise prior to the February 1 Board meeting should be directed to M. O'Donnell and E. Gelven, and they will be addressed prior to the Board adopting its 2021-2022 Operating Budget.

5. Adjournment

Motion Passed: To adjourn at 8:09 PM passed with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Catherine Staunton.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays

Erica Gelven	Yes
Michael Hornyak	Yes
Jason Adler	Yes
Christopher Passante	Yes
Kimberly Russo	Yes
Catherine Staunton	Yes

Michael Hornyak, Secretary of the Board

Allison Friday, Clerk of the Board