DRAFT

March 14, 2016

The Board of Finance held a special meeting on this date in the meeting room of the Stonington Police Department. Members present were Bryan Bentz, Chairman; Dudley Wheeler, Tim O'Brien, Michael Fauerbach and Glenn Frishman. Also present were Director of Finance James Sullivan; Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent of Schools; Nikki Gullickson, Assistant Superintendent; Allison Van Etten, Director of Special Services; Gary Shettle, Director of Finance for the BOE; Bill King, Director of Operations and Facilities; Board of Education Members and several school administrators.

Mr. Bentz called the meeting to order at 7:15.

Board of Education Budget Presentation-Board of Education member Faith Leitner read a letter from Frank Todisco, Board of Education Chairman. The letter stated the reasons for the 2.88% spending increase. Health insurance increases, tuition cost increases, and the hiring of two van drivers and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst account for most of the increase. Mr Riley stated that the budget is fiscally conservative while meeting the needs of the programs. He also mentioned that the new van used by Student Services resulted in a savings of almost $200,000. He also emphasized the need for a Behavior Analyst to assist in the rise in children with severe behavior issues. Mr. Frishman asked if this was a duplication of Services, considering the schools have psychologists and social workers. Mrs. Van Etten noted the differences and said that these services are now being outsourced, which is costly, and this would be greatly reduce the need for outsourcing. Mr. King gave a summary of the CIP items, which included network equipment, the portable classroom lease and a boost pump at Pawcatuck Middle School. Discussion ensued.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

June D. Strunk

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