



Board Budget Study Session and Business Meeting Highlights February 29, 2016

Budget Study Session

At 6:30 p.m. Leila Maude, Board of Education President, called the Budget Study Session to order, and asked Dr. Thomas Hagerman, Superintendent of Schools, to introduce the presentations. Dr. Hagerman then introduced Stuart Matthey, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Facilities.

Mr. Matthey began by answering questions posed by community members and the Board of Education at the previous Budget Study Session. Following that, members of District Administration presented aspects of the budget in their domains: Lynne Shain, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction; Eric Rauschenbach, Director of Special Education and Student Services; Ray Pappalardi, Director of Physical Education, Health, and Athletics; Rachel Moseley, Director of Information Technology; and Jerry Crisci, Director of Instructional Technology and Innovation. The PowerPoint slides for these presentations may be found [here](#):

In her presentation on Instruction, Ms. Shain reported on the results of potential Mandarin enrollment. A minimum of 48 students (12 per class) was needed for the program to be viable, but after canvassing every family, just 42 students registered for this option. Therefore, Ms. Shain reported, the administration was withdrawing its budget request for a Mandarin teacher at the Middle School.

Business Meeting

At the 8 p.m. Business Meeting, Ms. Maude reported that the Board had held an informal conversation regarding the configuration of Board meetings for the next school year, and is leaning toward eliminating the morning Board meetings; the

Board will discuss the matter further at its March 5th Board Retreat. Dr. Hagerman congratulated Board member Chris Morin for being on the winning team at the Scarsdale Spelling Bee.

Community members were invited to address the Board, and three did so. Dan Hochvert, 62 Woods Lane, asked about future plans for implementation of Mandarin; and Janet Nova, 28 Brite Avenue, and Laura Liu, 2 Wheelock Road, asked the Board to reconsider the Administration's recommendation not to implement Mandarin at the Middle School.

The Board then approved items on the consent agenda, and heard and accepted a personnel report presented by Dr. Bernard Josefsberg, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Leadership Development.

Under the Information Items/Discussion portion of the agenda, titles of new textbooks were reviewed. Dr. Hagerman also reviewed the Census Report, and noted that the Board will be undertaking its annual review of Board Policies and Regulations at subsequent Board meetings; he enumerated a list of particular policies that may be revised.

Ms. Shain then reviewed the process by which Mandarin instruction at the Middle School had been brought up for reconsideration the month before, the thorough efforts to canvass each and every family of rising sixth graders, and the rationale behind the firm minimum of 48 enrollments needed for the program's viability, especially given that inaugurating the program would commit the District to three years of staffing.

Ms. Maude asked the Board to consider Ms. Shain's presentation. The Board's consensus was to affirm Ms. Shain's request to withdraw the Mandarin position.

The Board voted to approve the proposed school calendar for 2016-17, which may be accessed [here](#).

The Board accepted, with thanks, a donation from the Fox Meadow PTA for the purchase of 12 electronic keyboards, plus accompanying equipment.

The Board presented a summary of written communications received by the

Board from community members, and announced a list of upcoming meeting dates.

The Board then adjourned.