

“Serious Commitment to the Success of Every Student - through Academics, Arts, Athletics, and Opportunities!”



March 21, 2016 – Budget Session MINUTES – 7:00 p.m.

In attendance: M. McClure, D. DiPietro, J. Hackworth, A. Loeffler, D. Tompa, J. Nehlsen, K.J. Walker, A. DiClaudio, L. Ashbaugh, M. DiNinno

Visitors: A. Coudriet, T. Nix, D. Zolkowski, M. Plance, E. Hewitt, A. Mayhood, A. Gornic, S. Rae, E. Moore, L. Loughren, C. Tsambis, E. Dudash, E. Aftanas, B. Huffman, H. Liddle, W. Wilton, P. O’Toole

Dr. DiNinno welcomed the board and asked that they keep Business Office secretary Judene Sykes and her family in their prayers during the loss of Judene’s mom this past week.

Dr. DiNinno then thanked members of the public for attending the Budget Session meeting. She explained that Ms. Good will be presenting the first draft of the 2016-2017 budget at the meeting tonight and this is the beginning step for budget development. She explained: Many important decisions still have to be made. At this time, the budget has been developed using information and resource requests provided by staff and administration. The current preliminary budget includes almost all of the requested resources. As a result, the preliminary budget includes more expenses than revenues. As the process continues, important decisions will have to be made with regard to additions, deletions, revisions, and creative ways to provide resources. The challenge becomes more difficult because the state has not yet passed a budget for the current year.

Ms. Good then presented the preliminary version of the 2016-2017 budget and demonstrated the variance between expenditures and revenues. She reminded everyone that the state has not yet passed a budget for the current year and that makes it difficult to determine what numbers should be used for next year. Dr. DiNinno provided additional clarification pertaining to how the preliminary budget was linked to priorities identified in the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Good provided the school board with an Executive Budget Binder which included very specific details regarding expenditures, revenues, and anticipated tax information for the 16-17 school year. Comparison data was also provided from previous year budgets. A copy of the 2016-2017 budget presentation, as presented, is attached for the record.

Following the presentation, several parents commented on the budget. Concerns included the need to maintain small class sizes in the elementary grades. Several parents representing Tenth Street Elementary School indicated that they enrolled their children at Riverview because of the small class sizes and they felt it was important for learning. Several referenced class size research. One parent indicated that it was important that more equity in class sizes between the elementary schools exist and class sizes should be smaller at Tenth Street. Another parent indicated that her children attended Tenth

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Street and had class sizes in the 20s, however she was satisfied with their education and her children’s educational needs were met.

Additional comments regarding students’ math needs were brought up by the administration and some board members. Dr. DiNinno explained that small class sizes, as well as meeting the transitional math needs of students in grades 5 through 8, were both important. She explained that as the budget is being developed, the administration would be examining creative ways to use resources so that both of these priorities could be addressed. Mr. Hackworth indicated that there is a need to address math instruction needs at the elementary grades so that students are better prepared for high school math and learning. One parent commented that as a result of the changes to the math curriculum this year, the District should give things more time to work and use teachers for smaller class sizes. Several parents commented that they preferred small class sizes over math intervention if that decision had to be made.

Following the class size discussion, two parents from Verner Elementary voiced their concerns regarding student discipline at one grade level at Verner Elementary School. A discussion took place about how these concerns were being met and several parents from both Verner and Tenth Street Elementary School shared their concerns. Mrs. Plance indicated that this matter is being addressed at Verner and some of the concerns the parents shared were actually concerns from prior years. She indicated that she is working hard to address needs at Verner. She explained that she is a new principal, and that it will take a bit of time and that anytime a parent, teacher, or student comes to her with a concern, it is addressed. She explained that behavioral matters with children are hard to turn around but things are being addressed, children are learning, and she is working with a very competent and caring staff.

The meeting ended at approximately 10:30.