A special meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 27, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. in the L.C.S. gym.

Present were: Ms. Carr, Chairperson; Ms. Stone; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Pavlick; Mr. Shuhi; Mr. Simone; and Mr. Terzian.

Absent was: Mr. Morosani.

Also present were: Superintendent Turner; Mr. Fiorillo; Ms. Haggard; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Deltano; Dr. Pascento and the press and members of the public.

**New Business**

a. **2019-2020 Budget**

Board members reviewed their budget books and discussed: areas of consolidation in Special Ed department; $75,000 for OT and PT; one person for each, hours per week; possible half time; these options are less costly; issues with health insurance; look at other options; school psychologist covered within budget so no budget impact; reviewing budget only came up with pennies in savings; issues in salaries; L.M.S. with 126 students; low numbers in 7th and 8th; 10 regular ed content area teachers; 3 sections at L.I.S. going to L.M.S.; smaller numbers going from 6th grade to 7th; need plans to move forward; small class sizes doesn’t produce a better outcome; need to teach to full capacity; need to address in future; no plans now; need to preserve L.M.S. model since it is working; not best utilization of our resources; possibly cut teachers in L.M.S.; job descriptions comparing to other schools; use certified staff to best of ability; teachers teach by grade level; certification issues; L.M.S. model takes a lot of resources; issues with class size need to be brought up now; issues with specials teachers and class sizes; community concerns growing; scheduling concerns; 2.7% without insurance more palatable; bigger problem lingering year after year; Long Term Planning Committee can work on issues; have many full time staff that don’t have a full time schedule; possible cuts in teachers/administrators; concerns about low numbers; possible 40 in a few years; teachers not teaching full time doesn’t impact students; need goal for class sizes; look at now and not increase 5%; teachers do learning labs; must move on a look at all types of options; instructional changes; pay certified staff for content area; issues with covering instruments responsibility and Seherr-Thoss grant; ask Superintendent and administrators to come up with options; 3% more likeable; being more efficient; need to cover instruments on a rolling scale; if vote will go to BOF and they will make recommendations for the budget amount.

**MOTION** made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to approve the budget as presented with a caveat that if insurance goes down we have a Special Meeting to refine it.
Board members discussed: concerns with part time staff; look at L.H.S. classes also; issues with Seherr-Thoss grant and covering instruments; 5 year plan for instruments; required to spend $20,000 with matched funds; only funded one year; spending lots of money on repairs; issues with using Seherr-Thoss too much; need repair and replacement in the budget; $4,800 for repairs, $7,000 for grant; regular instruction for licensing fees; technology budget supports instruction; not double dipping; managed by tech department; L.H.S. math instruction; new licensing; must renew for 6 years, no other option; Glencoe used; tuition issues; issues with some pages not printed; and prior years school specific now district specific.

**MOTION withdrawn by Mr. Simone and second withdrawn by Mr. Pavlick.**

**MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Pavlick:** to approve the budget as presented with a caveat that if insurance goes down we have a Special Meeting to refine and add $7,000 for instrument spending.

**MOTION carried.** Mr. Pavlick; Mr. Clock; Mr. Simone; Mr. Falcetti voted in the affirmative. Ms. Stone; Mr. Shuhi and Mr. Terzian voted in the negative. There were no abstentions.

**MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Mr. Terzian:** to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

**MOTION carried.** All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

Respectfully submitted,

Mathew Terzian, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary