LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 8, 2019

A special meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Monday, April 8, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Center School gym.

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

Also present were: Superintendent Turner; Mr. Fiorillo; the press and members of the public.

Old Business

a. Budget discussion.

Superintendent Turner and Mr. Fiorillo distributed 4 pages of “BOE Adopted Budget, Change in Benefits, add music equipment $7,000,” page 1 reduction from 3.86% to 2.8% including information technology 170K; plant operations 40K; page 2 regular instruction-50K; outside tuition – 20K; plant operations- 10K; page 3 to 2.0% pupil services 65K; district wide – 30K; page 4 reduction to 0.0% staff 375K, 2 teachers at LMS; 2 Teachers LCS; 1 Administrator DOS; part time Spanish teacher at LIS; unemployment plus 55K; BOF recommendation for BOE budget this evening to 0.0%.

Board members discussed: possible 2 ½ % increase preferred; review of sheets; entire 4 pages of cuts to meet reduction of 0.0%; increase unemployment payment; issues with swim team reduction; possibly give BOF direction; have conversation; town hearing on budget; have to accept BOF budget now; issues with insurance coverage for town; making everyone suffer as a result; appears punitive; consequential for students; per pupil student cost issues; Region 6 even more costly; possibly playing games; issues with possibly closing schools; reeks of punishment; up to community to vote “no” at town meeting; preferred increase of 2 ½ to 3 percent; difficult to meet 0.0%; BOE would have to pay more for insurance $300,000; allocate to us; subsidize town employees; all one town; comes out of educational opportunities for students; can show what it means at 0.0%; allocate to us; $763,476 less money than asked for; difficult to agree to 0.0%; what teachers are out; lots of moving parts; lists made by priority recommendations; Board can mix and match items to cut; cuts based on priorities for district and BOE goals; issues with cutting teachers at L.C.S.; larger class sizes; early interventions is key; PD gone; issues with L.M.S. staff being cut; limit Spanish and Social Studies; need for compromise; concern with taking money away from families in need; Superintendent’s job to let Board know what has the biggest impact on students; impressed with first 3 pages presented with cuts; 2% increase is more palatable; 4th page tough to follow; possibly cut CABE membership, other clubs, associations before staff; impact on students with no Dean of Students; DOS effect on absences; important role lost; impact on emotional/social growth; does SRBI; will have to be done by principal; issues with pool use; shared with 3 other districts; capping Wamogo student participation; never been capped; not a lot graduating from
Wamogo this year; budget hurts going forward with Region 6; need to have community members involved to change 0.0%; issues with teachers being cut from L.M.S. and L.I.S. but not from L.H.S.; teaching optional courses seems lopsided; Spanish cuts at L.I.S.; L.H.S. had cuts last year; Superintendent’s priority; need to keep teachers there now; don’t want to limit L.H.S. courses; Art enrollment is through the roof; graduation requirements issues; changing credits; why cut swimming and not basketball or baseball; 30 students impacted; costs for renting pool; possible pay to play; issues with pay to play; families who pay for more than one student, students who can’t afford it; difficult to work out; renting pool very costly; hockey not a club sport; possibly accept cuts if no longer our budget; wait on page 4 until see if can get funding by eliminating CABE and other fees; possibly cut Legacy program; issues with students needs for Legacy program; more social issues for kids in need; could have done this differently with insurance; input from Administrators; possibly table reallocation of money until have both sides; what would work for principals; need more input from them; class size issues; possible budget increase for the town, 1.7%; April 24th present budget to town; could adjust later; limited time with looking at cuts; concerns with not having swim team; issues with parents expressing concerns in the beginning of the year; if not swimming, then what put in place; difficult to make decisions on cuts presented due to timing; not our budget any longer; have parents get involved; detrimental to the education of students in community; difficult BOF decision; BOE willing to meet in the middle; don’t support 0% increase; power rides with the people in the community; if don’t do that than accept the charge; would have preferred a higher percentage; immoral of the BOF; can’t fight it now; possibly direct Superintendent not to cut FTE; don’t cut services but could cut CABE membership; 3 classes of 18 doable; numbers in K, 1st grade ok; Spanish enrollment and Social Studies meet every other day; 66 students in 7th grade; 6th grade 59; had 4 English and 4 Math, now have 3 classes; 59 students in 8th grade only have 3 sections; possibly collapse 7th and 8th grade like they do in other districts; concerns with staffing needs; teachers teach 5 classes per day; possibly change schedule type; aspire to be creative; anxiety issues; schedules for specials teachers; less students per session; specials teachers and gym teacher .6; be creative with staff; possibly have administrators attend special meeting and have them prioritize their needs; input from Administrators in possible cuts; don’t want to be put in the middle; input already in how impacts schools; Administrators have more details in the buildings; job of Superintendent to set needs of district based on Board goals; need help in determining cuts; need bullet points; hats off to Superintendent for detailing cuts; need to present on the 24th; Board consensus was to hold a Special on April 22nd at 7:15 p.m.; to discuss impact on budget; and how to cut our budget.

**MOTION** made by Mr. Pavlick and seconded by Mr. Morosani: to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Terzian, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary