A special meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education Finance Committee was held on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Central Office Conference Room.

Members Present: Mr. Simone (chair), Mr. Morosani and Mr. Terzian.

Also Present: Superintendent Turner, David Fiorillo and the public.

**New Business**

a. **Budget Development Discussion:** extensive discussion revolved around the increased cost of employee benefits and the impact it is having on the 2019-2020 budget. The first draft of the Superintendent’s Budget came in at a 5% increase. School administration is working quickly to explore other options that may save funding in next year’s budget. The insurance renewal meeting took place less than 2 weeks ago and the administration has taken quick action to provide other potential options. The superintendent’s proposed budget includes the current costs if no action is taken.

The 2019-2020 budget books were distributed to the committee and the feedback was as follows:

John Morosani: Discussed options with respect to lowering the Superintendent’s proposed budget. 1) Eliminating staff at the high school to increase class size and reduce electives. There was discussion revolving around teacher contracts and combined classes with respect to cost savings at the high school level.

Mr. Morosani proposed the idea of closing a school building indicating the facilities study from 2016 was flawed. Conversation revolved about funding another facilities study. Mr. Morosani indicated that a grant to Seherr-Thoss could be used to support the effort and didn’t want to include this in the 2019-2020 budget.

Matthew Terzian: The last resort was to look at closing a building and he also is not ready to look at another facilities study.

Frank Simone: Supports the Superintendent’s budget as presented. Advocated against reduction of smaller elective classes in the high school because it hurts non-college bound students disproportionately.

The committee was surveyed about what they think the Superintendent’s proposed budget should be: Mr. Morosani – 2-2.5%; Mr. Terzian – 2-3.5%, and Mr. Simone – 5%.
MOTION made by Mr. Terzian and seconded by Mr. Simone: to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew B. Terzian, Secretary