

**APPROVED MINUTES
BOARD OF FINANCE SPECIAL MEETING
March 26, 2008
7:30 pm--TOWN HALL- Board of Education meeting room**

At 7:35 PM Chairman Murry Stegelmann called the meeting to order, noting the purpose of the meeting was to meet with the Board of Education. All members of the Board of Finance were present except Peter Hovell. Several members of the Board of Education were present. BOE Superintendent Don Fiftal, Director of Finance Richard Huot, Dr. Stephen Falcone and Mrs. Robin Pavia were also present. Several members of the public were in attendance. The meeting was neither taped nor broadcast.

BUDGET DISCUSSION WITH BOARD OF EDUCATION

Don Fiftal distributed prepared packets which contained memoranda and data addressing the issues the Board of Finance had suggested for discussion. The first topic was the proposal to fund the requirement that seniors take a sixth credit. He noted that the BOE felt strongly that the seniors should have a robust senior year. The request is to add 2.4 FTE's. Several questions were asked by the Board of Finance members, which were answered.

Don Fiftal then discussed the Response to Intervention initiative. He noted that this very data-based program was designed to address reading issues early on, thereby both preventing children from falling into special education and program and closing a CMT score gap compared to other districts.

Robin Pavia discussed the need for a litigation assistant, reviewing the mediation and litigation case loads over the past two years. BOE Vice –Chair Kim Westcott noted that this was a high-priority item for the BOE.

The discussion then turned to the subject of the Early Learning Program. As of the meeting the projected special education enrollment in this program is expected to grow from 21 students to 28. Accordingly, the BOE is going to need to use both the Hindley and the Tokeneke school sites to accommodate the program.

In light of the late hour, the two Boards agreed to defer the discussion of the technology budget to the next meeting.

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At 10:12 PM, the Board of Finance members turned to a general discussion of other matters including the calculations of the mill rate and the forthcoming budget discussions.

Tom Volpe made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved 6-0. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Smith Mao, Clerk