

**Town of Darien**  
**RTM Education Committee**  
**Meeting: Jan 19, 2012, 8:00pm Rm. 119**

**Attendees:** Lois Schneider, Peter Kelly, Maria Ferretti, Dennis Maroney, Sandy Savage, Arden Broecking, Sumathi Ebrahimi, Dave Martens, Emily McDermott, Karin Sharp, Tony Imbimbo, Susan Morrison, Chris Camuti

**Absent:** Barbara Thorne, Joan Davis, Christa McNamara

**Meeting Minutes:**

Quorum for the meeting was met.

- Lois Schneider described the Education Budget process from now through the Public Hearing and budget vote.
- Lois Schneider asked for comments from the Committee from those that voted to approve the teacher's contract and those that voted to abstain. Comments included:
  - The costs related to teacher benefits were not clearly presented. A better breakout to the overall teacher salaries, health care costs, other benefits and overhead were requested. In addition, a summary of the total school personnel costs plus overall benefits over the last 3-5 years was requested to better understand the growth. A sample spreadsheet was provided.
- Lois Schneider asked for comments related to the Education budget for presentation at the Board of Ed meeting on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>:
  - Is there a formula used to calculate the stipend cost? What are the criteria for setting the different stipend levels?
  - What is the Board of Education doing to better control Health Care costs? Are they working with other school districts? Are they working with the state regulators in Hartford?
  - Can the BOE provide an analysis of the Special Ed costs over the last 10 years?
  - What specific steps has the BOE taken to minimize the cost increases for Spec Ed? Who has reviewed the IEPs?
  - Does BOE expect that the SRBI's (response to intervention) additions to Special Ed will decrease over the next year?
- Lois Schneider asked that a sense of the meeting be taken related to the World Language budget. Members were asked if they support the budget item as described for world language program in the elementary schools. Response from the committee: 0 yea, 10 nay, 2 abstain

Motion by Chris Camuti to adjourn. Motion seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm

Next meeting of the Education Committee is Jan 24 to present our Education Budget questions to the BOE.

Peter Kelly: Jan 24, 2012