

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

Special Town Council Meeting

APRIL 11, 2013

FY 2013 – 2014 BUDGET WORKSHOP

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Special Budget Workshop Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was called to order at 6:35 P.M. There was a Moment of Silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilors in attendance were as follows: Vincent Cervoni, Nick Economopoulos, Thomas Laffin, John Letourneau, Chairman Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, and Jason Zandri. Councilor John Sullivan was not present with an excused absence. Councilor Craig Fishbein did not respond present to the Roll Call but was observed to be in the audience for a portion of the meeting. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and James M. Bowes, Comptroller were also in attendance.

3. BUDGET WORKSHOP

A) Board of Education

*In attendance: Dr. Salvatore Menzo, Superintendent of Schools
Roxanne McKay, Chairperson, Board of Education
Linda Winters, Business Manager*

Dr. Menzo began by referring to the meeting between the Board and the Council, stating the significance of the joint meeting as it relates to tonight's workshop. The Council through the Chairman and individual Councilors praised the Superintendent and the Board for the thorough and thoughtful budget research and preparation.

The Council asked specifically about: the Mayor's budget being \$1.2 million less than the district asked for; state and national school mandates; CRRA funds; Common Core State Standards and secondary school reform; school security measures and related costs; technology; the dynamic Strategic Plan of the School District and the changes that occur in real time with how the plan set out when it was created; cost of heating and reasons why budget shows a balance; how the heating balance will be used; the reasons why there is a salary line reduction; the increase in Professional/Educational Services; the clarification of certified employees and non-certified employees; the announcement of fourteen (14) retirements; employee benefits; employee contribution to healthcare is at nineteen (19%) percent; Anthem's increase of two (2%) percent; property insurance; the upcoming building location change of the Board of Education with the Adult Education Program to bring the students of the Adult Education Program into the realm of M.T. Sheehan High School; the related costs of the relocation; pupil

transportation; repairs and maintenance; Instructional Equipment; the Lease Purchase line; and the Vo-Ag Summary on page 25 of the booklet.

The discussion referred to the Board of Education's booklet of 'Recommended Budget for FY 2013-2014' (*part of the record of the meeting*) as well as the town's budget book.

Wallingford, Connecticut
Town Council Special Meeting-Budget Workshop

2

April 11, 2013
RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

B) Cafeteria

*In attendance: Dr. Salvatore Menzo, Superintendent of Schools
Roxanne McKay, Chairperson, Board of Education
Charlene Wong, Director, Food Services of the School System*

Ms. Wong presented her budget to the Council telling them of programs she has initiated the last fiscal year that included an increase in the cost of lunches but that Wallingford is the lowest town; the launch of two-tier pricing on favorite items that did not prove successful and was discontinued. She raised the price of cookies and French fries; she was approved by the State of Connecticut and was successful in being awarded a grant, which gave her \$.06 per meal under the grant's requirements. She stated that Food Services has always been self-supporting. With the Superintendent's Office and the Board of Education, a Food Services Strategic Plan has been developed. She reported a decreasing enrollment, that lunch prices have risen and fewer lunches are being purchased. Thirteen (13%) percent of students receive free lunches and three (3%) percent received reduced lunches. Federal aid increased in free and reduced lunches. She said that she is now working with Kathy Queen of the Wallingford Day Care Center to develop a program. Forty (40%) of the budget is operational and that by June 30, 2014, she will have a deficit of approximately \$74,000.

MOTION TO APPROVE ADJOURNMENT

MADE BY: Parisi
SECONDED BY: Letourneau
VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION PASSED

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra R. Weekes
Town Council Secretary
Meeting digitally recorded

Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

Date

Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

Date