



TOWN OF WORTHINGTON

**Worthington Public School District
R.H. Conwell Building
Public Hearing
March 09, 2015
Minutes**

Members present: Chairman John McDonald, Maria Bebee, Debbie Carnes, Alex Lak and Alison Todd.

Attendees: Bruce Todd, Jeff Manley, Antonia Lake, Joe Boudreau, Tom Wisnauckas, Heather Dufresne, Marie Burkhart, Gail Bergeron, Susan Warner, Fran Gougeon, Craig Jurgensen, Sherrie Keith Higgins, Leona Arthen, Norman Stafford, Natalie Stafford, Gail Lucey, Shawn Thayer, Diane Brenner, Sue Levreault, Kate Kelly, Bart Niswonger, Bob Reilly and Jan Robie.

Call to Order: Meeting was opened at 6:30 P.M.

School Districts are required to hold a public hearing on their proposed budget. The Hearing was duly advertised and posted two weeks ago in the Country Journal. The draft budget was posted outside at the town hall. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to take comments on the posted budget. John described the contents of the proposed FY2016 budget and the breakdown of staff and salary information. The total estimate is \$984,912 plus all the benefits and new employees and costs associated with the maintenance of the building. The meeting was opened up for public comment.

Comments:

Kate Kelly: Would one paraprofessional be used for one on one and would that fit under SPED services as needed? Supply budget? Answer: Three paras and one full time SPED teacher are included in the budget proposal.

Marie Burkhart: Cost of budget now compared to past payments to Gateway Regional.

Answer: Comparable to 2009 which was based on same amount of students expected to register this year.

Gail Bergeron: Full time custodial salary? Answer: On the town side of the budget. One or two shared positions

Antonia Lake: Budget does not talk about the number of children? Original budget was drafted to educate 60 children.

Shawn Thayer: Elementary guidance position; \$20,000 in excess guidance serves. Answer: The original point Elementary Guidance Salary 0.6 position was reduced to a contract line of \$15,000 and transferred the balance into the teacher's salary line to guarantee hiring teachers that are highly qualified. Line 60 will be struck.

Concern over lack of adjustment counselor? Answer: A full time principal will be hired and is expected to be able to cover some of the responsibilities of that position.

Bob Reilly, a current guidance counselor stated that one full time adjustment counselor is more than adequate for 550 students.

Jeff Manley: Average cost per pupil? Answer: \$11,000 to \$13,000 range.

Hearing closed at 7:00 P.M.

Information:

Draft Budget: The Proposed FY 2016 budget for Worthington School District

Draft Model: Anticipated Elementary School Staff and Salary Info

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne C. Lemieux
Recording Secretary
Edited John McDonald, 3/19/15