Chairman Kathy Yolish called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call:
John Fitzgerald
Amanda Kilmartin (excused)
Kate Kutash
Diana Meyer (6:32 p.m.)
Patti Moonan

James Orazietti, Vice Chair
Carl Rizzo
Amy Romano, Secretary
Kathleen Yolish, Chair

Quorum: at 6:32 p.m. 8:1

Board of Education Administration present: Dr. Christopher Clouet, Superintendent of Schools; Kenneth Saranich, Assistant Superintendent; Carole Pannozzo, Human Resources Director; Finance Director, Rick Belden

(1 tape on file in City/Town Clerk’s office)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda
Kate Kutash moved to approve the agenda; motion seconded by Patti Moonan and approved unanimously by those present.

Public Hearing
No one from the public spoke.

Superintendent’s Scenarios for a Budget of 2%, 2.5%, and 2.9%
Superintendent provided handouts to be reviewed which included the 2020-21 Budget – Working Draft and 2020-21 Budget Narrative. These documents were reviewed by the Superintendent and Finance Director.

The following talking points were discussed: salaries, benefits, health care insurance, Special Education costs, position eliminations from the last few years, hiring of paraprofessionals to accommodate student needs in 2019-2020, the hiring of a Pre-School Teacher in 2019-2020.

A letter was read by Kate Kutash on behalf of Amanda Kilmartin in her absence.

Carl Rizzo asked for more context regarding the student population and staffing.

Rick Belden continued to review the 2020-21 Budget- Working Draft. He suggested having a conversation with the city about health insurance and setting up a reserve for unanticipated claims. Place holders have been set in the budget just in case the city is willing to assume some items of the budget such as curricular materials, instructional equipment and technology equipment.

Carl Rizzo will be meeting with Dan DiVito to explore other saving options in technology.

There was a consensus from Board Members that a 2.9% ($74,933,060) spending plan would at least maintain present services.
Amy Romano asked for a more detailed enrolment report for SIS and Perry Hill. She would like to know how many special education students are in each class.

Superintendent Clouet asked that if board members have anything in mind to please send it in an email so that they may be compiled and addressed.

The consensus budget will be submitted on Friday, February 14, 2020 to the City Finance Director. There will possibly be a vote on the budget on Wednesday, February 19, 2020.

Discussion ensued about schools being open on the day of the primaries, April 28, 2020.

(Note: Tape 1; Side B – 7:31 p.m.)

Adjournment
Kathy Yolish adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Anita Smith
Recording Secretary
February 17, 2020
Received