

**SPECIAL BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING**

**Monday September 30, 2013 7:00 PM**

**Town Hall Meeting Room**

Present: Vice Chmn Melissa Koller, members Patty Kopas, Steve Ezzes, Richard Bochinski, Michael Carter and David Finkel; Town Administrator Tom Landry, Superintendent of Schools Colleen Palmer, Princ. Lisa D’Orio, School Finance Director Jo-Ann Keating, First Selectman Gayle Weinstein via telephone, Margaret Wirtenberg; several Board of Education members; Lisa Wolak High School Principal and Secretary Donna M. Anastasia. *Chmn Sargent not attending.*

Meeting called to order by Vice Chairman Koller at 7:00 PM.

**DISCUSSION/DECISION REGARDING APPROVING A RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND AN INCREASE IN THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE WESTON HIGH SCHOOL PROJECTS BY \$344,067, TO \$1,421,000, FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A HVAC SYSTEM FOR THE E WING OF WESTON HIGH SCHOOL, AND TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION BY USING \$344,067 OF GRANTS AND OTHER LOCAL FUNDS**

***Motion: Mr. Bochinski made a motion to approve the resolution as written and submitted to the board; Ms. Kopas seconded. Motion on the floor.***

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the sources of the funds to be used for several Weston High School projects. The resolution as submitted reflects a reallocation of funds as previously described and not an increase in the appropriation.

Dr. Keating gave a break down of the various sources one of which is funded by the State. The caveat being that the State will assess various components of the project and render a final modification.

Mr. Ezzes asked for clarification regarding the anticipated balance should the grant not go through. Dr. Keating explained that once the various funds are deducted from the total cost there is a balance remaining of 38K.

However, should there be additional funds required there is the option of the Capital budget and several accounts at fiscal year- end which will have positive balances that can be utilized.

Dr. Palmer did state there is a contingency budget in place when Mr. Finkel raised the issue and she explained at that point the Facilities Committee and the Board of Education would produce a responsible funding plan.

Mr. Landry added that should the project come in higher the Board of Finance can approve a supplemental if they choose and the Board of Education can indeed use those funds. The meeting scheduled for Thursday changes the scope of the project but not the dollar amount.

Dr. Palmer also went over some information regarding the conditions of the classrooms. A visitation team did come and inspect the school and conveyed that there are issues to be mitigated. It was mentioned that the building is over 40 years old. Dr. Palmer added that the basic learning spaces are inadequate and it would benefit to begin now by addressing 1/3 of the space.

Ms. Koller pointed out that currently a study is being prepared and would hope that by not waiting the town does not spend more than it should.

Ms. Weinstein feels this is a Board of Education decision and the community has the right to 'weigh in' on it. Mr. Finkel was concerned that the community be informed with a very clear and factual presentation.

***Vote: Ms. Koller called for a vote on the motion and with all members in favor, motion carries unanimously.***

***Motion made to adjourn this meeting at 7:41 PM with all in favor meeting adjourned.***

Attachments  
Complete Resolution  
Legal Notice

Respectfully submitted  
Donna M Anastasia, Secretary