

Minutes

Board of Finance Meeting

March 11, 2014

Auditorium 7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Liz Mao, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. All members of the Board of Finance were present. The meeting was broadcast live over Channel 79.

Public Hearing

Tara Ochman of 476 Mansfield Avenue and Robin Nelson of 51 Arrowhead Way, both members of the CDSP, spoke. Both Mrs. Ochman and Mrs. Nelson presented several reasons why the Board of Education budget should be approved.

Jim McCammon of 81 Old Kings Highway South and a Special Education Budget Representative for CDSP spoke. Mr. McCammon highlighted several reasons why the Board of Education budget should be approved.

Mike Moore of 44 Long Neck Point and a member of the CDSP (Elementary Schools) spoke. Mr. Moore provided some background on four areas: Elementary Budget, Special Education Challenges, Assistant Principals and increased personnel costs.

Julia Ford of 2183 Post Road a member of the CDSP (Middlesex Middle School) spoke. Mrs. Ford highlighted numerous reasons why the Board of Finance should approve the Board of Education budget.

Carolyn Langelier of 103 Stephen Mather Road a member of the CDSP (Darien High School) spoke. Mrs. Langelier highlighted four important reasons why the Board of Finance should approve the Board of Education Budget: Professional development, technology development, campus safety and physical space.

Michelle Sini of 36 Birch Road and Ryann Pegler of 31 Point O'Woods Road, a member of the Ox Ridge PTO, spoke. Mrs. Sini and Mr. Pegler pointed out several issues with facilities at Ox Ridge and why it was important to approve the Board of Education's budget.

Vickie Riccardo of 33 Red Rose Circle, a citizen of Darien, spoke. Mrs. Riccardo pointed out several reasons why the Board of Finance should approve the Board of Education's budget.

Debbie Ice of 10 Pondfield Lane, a citizen of Darien, spoke. Mrs. Ice highlighted the town's wealth and that Darien spends the least in our District Reference Group.

Nick DeMarco of 81 Goodwives River Road, a citizen of Darien, spoke. Mr. DeMarco rejected increased taxes and stressed that while the Board of Education needs to correct mismanagement, such efforts should not be funded by the taxpayers.

Missy Almy of 6 Birch Road, an Ox Ridge mother and citizen of Darien, spoke. Mrs. Almy gave some history on her career as a teacher and several reasons why she was in favor of the Board of Education budget.

Bill Ball of 3 McLaren Road South, a member of the RTM and citizen of Darien, spoke. Mr. Ball expressed his concerns about the management and usage of technology. He voiced his concern about the town's technology plan, or lack thereof.

Jim Cameron of 55 Dubois Street, a citizen of Darien, spoke. Mr. Cameron stated several reasons why the Board of Education budget should be approved and at one point shouted "Raise My Taxes".

Millyn Gaaserud of 35 Driftway Lane, a Citizen of Darien, spoke. Mrs. Gaaserud expressed her support for the Board of Education budget and highlighted several reasons why it should be approved.

Amy Barsanti of 16 Sunset Road, a citizen of Darien, spoke. Mrs. Barsanti stated she was in favor of the Board of Education budget and emphasized that we need to insure Darien Schools keep their excellent reputation strong.

Aimee Richards of 22 Birch Road, a citizen of Darien, spoke. Mrs. Richards explained that she supports the Board of Education budget and that our town real estate values benefit from our great school system.

Holly Schulz of 543 Hoyt Street, a citizen of Darien, spoke. Mrs. Schultz explained that there needs to be more focus on the infrastructure that supports the town. She requested the Board of Finance commit 1.5 million dollars to support improvements in pedestrian infrastructure.

David Smith of 26 Birch Road, citizen of Darien, spoke. Mr. Smith stated that the school system is not as good as it has been and felt that the school system is grossly under-managed. He felt that this budget is just the start of a 4 or 5 year plan.

OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing reported.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, David Lopiano made a motion to adjourn. Jon Zagrodzky seconded the motion. Passed 7 – 0 at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Lopiano
Clerk