

# The Board of Education Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600  
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Anne Fischer, Chairperson  
Mason Thrall, Vice Chairperson  
Patricia Buxton, Secretary  
Paul Grabowski  
Karen Colt  
Mark Kalina  
Stephen Linton  
Deborah Rodriguez  
Kristiana Wintress

Date: January 23, 2023

## **APPROVED MINUTES** BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING BUDGET WORKSHOP

A Vernon Board of Education Budget Workshop was held via Zoom Meeting and in-person on Monday, January 23, 2023.

### **1.0 Establish Quorum**

Board members present in-person: Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Thrall, Dr. Buxton, Mr. Grabowski, Ms. Colt, and Mr. Linton.

Board members present via Zoom: Mrs. Rodriguez and Ms. Wintress.

There was a quorum.

Also present were Dr. Joseph Macary, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Robert Testa, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. William Meier III, Director of Business and Finance; and Ms. Nina Prajzner, Secretary to Mr. Meier.

### **2.0 Call to Order**

Chairperson Fischer called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

### **3.0 Community Forum Opportunity for Public Comment on Superintendent's Proposed 2023-2024 Budget**

There was no public comment.

### **4.0 Budget Workshop**

Dr. Macary started tonight's meeting by answering the question and follow-up from the January 18<sup>th</sup> workshop. The question and response are as follows:

**Question 1:**                    **Can the In-School Suspension Facilitator be re-classified?**

*Response:*                    *Dr. Macary said they are still looking at the ISS position. They will revisit again and report back to the Board with their findings.*

**Question 2:**                    **Report of the number of employees and the dollar amount affected by the minimum wage increase.**

*Response:*                    *Dr. Macary reported thirty-five people are impacted by the minimum wage increase to fifteen dollars per hour.*

In regards to the January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, a question was asked about Health Aide, Monica Bardon's salary. Mr. Meier reported that the salary listed is her current salary.

There were no general questions.

Dr. Macary reminded the Board that the blue pages in the detail summary sheets include the totals and the white pages include the details.

The workshop began with a review of the RHS budget details.

On Page 16, a question was asked about the removed budget for line 54332, Copier Maintenance. It was reported that Copier Maintenance has moved to Central Office.

A question was asked about the 18% increase of line 55650, Conference Fees & Membership. The increase was due to new Athletic Tournament fees and an increase in ASTE enrollment.

A question was asked about the extra line items on the summary tables. Mr. Meier will have these removed.

On page 19, a question was asked about the Department Head Facilitators 22-23 Approved Budget. The FY23 budget has a mistake where the FY24 amount was used. The FY24 amounts are correct and in accordance with teachers' contracts.

A question was asked about the Music Instruction Department Head. Dr. Macary said they merged Art and Music together.

On page 20, a question was asked about the number of students who play ice hockey. Dr. Macary reported it was less than ten students. A follow up question was asked as to why they run hockey for less than ten students. Dr. Macary said they have a co-op team which means they don't pay the full burden. They are reimbursed by other districts. A follow up question was asked about reflecting this in the budget. Dr. Macary said they do not reflect it in the budget because they budget for net cost, not gross cost.

A question was asked about any other sports with less than ten students. Dr. Macary said most co-op sports have less than ten students.

A question was asked about painting lines on the field for Field Hockey. Dr. Macary said they do not host in Vernon so there is no need for lines on the field.

A question was asked about Intramural sports. Dr. Macary said it is based on interest.

On Page 21, a question was asked about the need for an assistant golf coach. Dr. Macary said it's a sport rule, you can only go on the green with four golfers at a time. If they have more than four students playing, another coach is needed.

A question was asked about the Class Advisor stipends varying per grade level. Dr. Macary said the stipends follow the contract.

A question was asked about the Girls Assistant Basketball Coaches earning less than the Boys Assistant Basketball Coach. Dr. Macary said they will receive the same pay. Mr. Meier will make the adjustments.

A question was asked about the NHS advisor stipend being split between two people. Dr. Macary confirmed.

On page 22, a question was asked about the Model UN Advisor. Dr. Macary said it was eliminated due to lack of interest. A follow up question was asking about the last time there was interest. Dr. Macary said it was about three years ago before Covid. A follow up question was asked about bringing the program back. Dr. Macary said there is no interest.

A question was asked about other clubs being eliminated. Dr. Macary said the home builders is no longer running as there was not enough interest. He also explained that drama was reclassified as Spring musical and Theatrical. A follow up question was asked about any clubs with less than ten students. Dr. Macary said there are no clubs with less than ten students.

A question was asked about the Yearbook advisor budget being split. Dr. Macary confirmed.

A question was asked about how the amount paid to the Student Activities Account Manager is determined if it is not listed in their contract. Dr. Macary said the Board chose the amount five years ago and they will need to revisit in the future.

On page 23, Dr Macary noted the line at the top of page is what they are looking into changing for the In-School Suspension Facilitator.

A question was asked about after school detention and morning duty stipends being mentioned in multiple places. Mr. Meier said they reclassified some of them and that they are not stipends as they are paid hourly. Dr. Macary said they pay \$1,550 for morning duty and \$3,000 for after school.

On page 24, a question was asked about the overtime for custodians and if the budget is reimbursed from the billing revenue for outside events. Dr. Macary confirmed it is.

On page 25, a question was asked about Teams of One. Dr. Macary said they are all listed together for South Windsor.

A question was asked about the wording on Teams of One. Dr. Macary said, for example, if a student wants to be girl's swimmer, they ask south Windsor to take the student as a Team of One and then they pay them for allowing the student to join their team.

A question was asked about bus physicals. Mr. Meier said this is for Ag teachers to drive the student bus. A follow up question was asked about why they pay for them. Dr. Macary said it is not in their contract and is an extra duty.

On Page 27, a question was asked about the increase in repairs for the gym weight room equipment. Dr. Macary said prices have increased. He added that the weight room does need renovations in the future.

On page 28, a question was asked about the removed budget for the Guidance Department to attend conferences. Mr. Testa said they have funding in central office for this. A follow up question was asked if this is used. Mr. Testa said on occasion.

A question was asked about the removed budget for the Library CECA conference. Dr. Macary said they went to a different conference.

A question was asked the acronyms listed in the budget and what they stand for. Dr. Macary and Mr. Meier explained these. See attached Addendum for full list of acronyms.

On page 29, a question was asked about the increase in budget for Ag Ed memberships. Dr. Macary said they increased so they are projecting high. He added they can accommodate one hundred sixty to one hundred seventy students with five teachers.

A question was asked about tournament fees being added for some sports. Dr. Macary said CIAC implemented them.

A question was asked about switching to pay to play for sports. Dr. Macary said that pay to play would not be consistent with the Boards equity stance. A follow up question was asked if students need to play sports or go on field trips. Dr. Macary said field trips are an important part of education. He also noted that sports and field trips engage more students. They are also some of the most memorable experience for students. A follow up question was asked about fundraising for sports. Dr. Macary said they do for personal items like warm up clothing, etc. A follow up question was asked about fundraising for their wants. Dr. Macary said their teams and boosters support them and help them with their fundraising.

On page 31, a question was asked about the note of a 5.9% increase for Sports Transportation but the Proposed Budget does not reflect this. Mr. Meier reviewed the number and it was correct.

A question was asked about the missing budget for the baseball helmets to be reconditioned. Dr. Macary said they will check with the Athletic Director. Mr. Meier will find out what the budget is and add it in if needed.

On page 32, a question was asked about English curriculum books. Dr. Macary said they are only buying books added to the curriculum.

A question was asked about the increase in calculator pricing and if this budget was just for calculators. Mr. Testa said it is also funding for textbooks. The calculator purchase is part of the districts planned replacement schedule.

On page 33, a question was asked about RHS Social Studies instructions for professional development materials and content. Dr. Macary said this moved to the central office budget. They will remove this line from the budget for next year.

A question was asked about moving the line regarding Girls lacrosse to under the line for Boys lacrosse on page 38. Mr. Meier will move this.

A question was asked about the removed budget on the bottom line of instructional supplies for Family and Consumer Sciences. Mr. Testa said they reallocated funds on a different line.

On page 35, a question was asked about removed budget for Music Instruction. Mr. Testa said they made a lot of adjustments to music. Dr. Macary added that they are spending what the music Director asked for.

A question was asked an about extra row in the middle of page 35. Mr. Meier said they will remove this.

A question was asked about the cbr's for modeling class under mathematics instruction. Dr. Macary said they took is out of ESSER 2 funding last year. He added they no longer have this funding.

A question was asked about the four hundred dollar increase in World Language Instruction. Dr. Macary said they have a ninth-grade exploratory class.

On page 36, a question was asked about the Science Instruction course no longer offered. Mr. Meier said the Earth Science Class is no longer offered.

A question was asked about the increase for Chemistry. Dr. Macary said they have a larger program due to the larger freshman class.

A question was asked about the Business Education request for four rolling white boards. Mr. Testa said these are being requested by the RHS Business Department to facilitate workshops and group lessons.

The RHS budget details review ended on page 36.

To summarize, the questions asked this evening requiring responses by the next workshop on January 25<sup>th</sup> are as follows:

- What is the Budget for the baseball helmets to be reconditioned?

## 5.0 Adjournment

Mrs. Fischer motioned to adjourn the workshop at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia Buxton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "B".

Patricia Buxton, Board Secretary

## ADDENDUM 1

NASSP	National Association of Secondary School Principals
NASC	National Association of Student Councils
NEASC	New England Association for Schools and Colleges
ASCD	The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
CMEA	Connecticut Music Educations Association
NAFME	National Association for Music Education
NCTE	National Council of Teacher of English
ALAN	The Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of NCTE
CASL	Connecticut Association of School Librarians
CECA	Connecticut Education & Cultural Action
CT COLT	Connect Council of Language Teachers
ACTFL	American Council of Teaching Foreign Languages
NADSFL	National Association of District Supervisors of Foreign Languages
AATF	American Association of Teachers of French
AATSP	American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese