

The Board of Education Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Anne Fischer, Chairperson
Mark Kalina, Vice Chairperson
Stephen Linton, Secretary
Patricia Buxton, Treasurer
Kevin Brown
Deborah Rodriguez
Mason Thrall

Date: January 25, 2021

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 25, 2021.

1.0 Establish Quorum

Roll call was taken at 6:00 p.m. Board members present in person: Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Kalina, Mr. Linton, Dr. Buxton, Mr. Brown and Mr. Thrall. Mrs. Rodriguez was present via Zoom Meeting. There was a quorum.

Also present were Dr. Macary, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Robert Testa, Assistant Superintendent and Ms. Angela Wang, Director of Business and Finance.

2.0 Call to Order

Chairperson Fischer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

4.0 Community Forum Opportunity for Public Comment on Superintendent's Proposed 2021- 2022 Budget

There was no public comment.

5.0 Budget Workshop

Dr. Macary reviewed a follow-up item from the last budget workshop; salary funding sources in the Personnel budget. Ms. Wang passed out a document which contained a table and pie chart explaining the percentage of grant funding as compared to local budget funding. Mr. Kalina asked if the 32 million included all State reimbursements. Dr. Macary said it did. Ms. Wang went on to explain the document to the Board. Mrs. Fischer asked why the document shows a total of

\$32,828,723.31 when the Budget Summary on page 5 shows a total of \$34,606,427.00. Ms. Wang explained that the Personnel budget does not include longevity and overtime payments.

Mrs. Fischer asked if Board members had any general questions before we start the RHS Budget.

Mr. Kalina asked what the impact would be to the budget if we're not traveling to games, etc. Dr. Macary said this budget is proposed for next year and we hope to resume a full sports schedule. Mr. Kalina asked if this applied to plays and musicals. Dr. Macary said yes.

Mrs. Fischer asked about what the plan was for stipends. Mr. Testa said a committee will be established to streamline stipends for activities and clubs. Once they have a plan in place, it will go before the Board for approval. They will not have the plan in place in time for this budget.

Mrs. Rodriguez asked about the various payouts for athletic coaching. Dr. Macary explained that this is based on their contract, timeframe and duration of each sport.

Mrs. Fischer asked about piano tuning as it is different at each school. Dr. Macary thinks it's \$110.00 per tuning, but will look into this.

Mrs. Fischer asked about the cost for EpiPen training. Dr. Macary thinks it's \$160.00 per person. Mr. Kalina asked if this is an annual fee. Dr. Macary said this is for 3 years.

The Board began the review of the RHS budget on page 19.

On page 22, Dr. Macary pointed out that this was a good example of why the stipends need to be streamlined.

Mrs. Rodriguez asked what the "RHS General School Instruction" line item referred to. Mrs. Fischer said this was for the in-school suspension teacher.

Mrs. Fischer asked what the "RHS General Principal Office Temporary Salaries - lighting" line item was for. Dr. Macary said this was for in-school events.

Mrs. Fischer asked why there are 2 golf coaches and how many students play. Dr. Macary said the coaches are for JV and Varsity and we had 12 student play last year.

Mrs. Fischer asked how many students took part in cheerleading. Dr. Macary said 23.

Dr. Macary went on to explain that there are three tiers of sports and each tier is negotiated in their contract. Mrs. Fischer said this might be something we want to look at in the next round of contract negotiations.

Mrs. Rodriguez asked what "Teams of One" meant on page 25. Dr. Macary explained that if there's a sport a student is interested in that we don't offer, we send that student to another District that offers the sport as a "Team of One". For example, South Windsor offers swimming and we do not. Mrs. Fischer asked how many "Teams of One" we would normally have. Dr. Macary said we had none this year due to COVID, but traditionally, we have approximately 3 – 4 teams.

Mrs. Fischer asked if the line item for Team Doctor / Officials is in addition to Dr. Marmer's fee. Dr. Macary said no, this includes Dr. Marmer.

Mrs. Fischer asked why is the “RHS I.S. Lacrosse – Girls” line item not in order with sports on other pages. Ms. Wang explained that the budget book is sorted by org code. Mrs. Fischer asked if the org code could be changed so that it lines up with other sports. Ms. Wang said yes, we can do that.

Mrs. Fischer questioned the zero expenditures for 19/20 for “Repair Instructional Equipment” line items. Dr. Macary said we got new labs.

Mrs. Rodriguez questioned employee travel for the Language Arts program on page 27. Dr. Macary said this was for travel to actual conferences.

Dr. Buxton expressed concern that nothing has been budgeted for RHS Libraries for travel and we should encourage the librarian to attend conferences. Mr. Testa said the librarian actually did attend a conference; it was funded from another source.

Mr. Kalina questioned the printing and binding line items on page 28. He asked if these tasks could be included in class curriculum and be printed in-house. Dr. Macary said we can look into this, but some of the items would be difficult to make, such as diplomas, as we are not equipped to do so. Mrs. Fischer asked if each school is spending these funds as the year goes on. Ms. Wang said yes; RHS has spent approximately \$4,000.00 thus far.

Mrs. Fischer asked what some of the acronyms listed in RHS Interscholastic Sports meant. Dr. Macary said CHSCA is Connecticut High School Coaches Assn., CAAD is Connecticut Assn. of Athletic Directors and NIAAA is National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Assn.

Mrs. Rodriguez asked why there is a decrease to zero in the Special Ed Instruction Field & Athletic Trips line item on page 31. Dr. Macary said this is now included in the transportation contract.

Mrs. Fischer asked why there was such an increase in the Career Education Transportation line item on page 31. Dr. Macary said that we want to encourage more students to take on an internship and are planning ahead.

Dr. Buxton asked why the Language Arts Transportation line item decreased from \$500.00 to \$400.00. Dr. Macary said this item moved over to the Maple Street School budget.

Mr. Brown questioned a new line item on page 31 for “Trips for TALC Students – Earned/Reward”. Dr. Macary said this was a new program.

Mr. Kalina asked if “RHS Libraries CSL & ILL Cataloging” on page 32 was done on-line. Dr. Macary said yes, we pay a subscription fee to belong.

Mrs. Fischer and Dr. Buxton questioned that org code 90134222 – RHS Libraries on page 32 is not budgeted for next year as was previously. What was this originally for? Dr. Macary will look into this.

Mr. Kalina asked what the “Stadium Systems Reconditioning’ line item on page 33 was for. Dr. Macary said this was for helmet reconditioning, etc. Stadium Systems is the name of the company providing the service.

Mrs. Rodriguez asked why there was nothing budgeted for Business Education on page 33. Dr. Macary said we purchased books three years ago and they are still fine.

Mrs. Rodrigues asked why Mathematics Instruction on page 36 has a \$7,700.00 decrease. Dr. Macary said we have everything we need.

Mr. Kalina asked about licensing for programs on page 38. We have many; how do we manage them to ensure we are compliant? Mr. Testa said all program requests must go through his department. Spreadsheets are kept that list all data, usage, etc. Mr. Kalina asked if we discontinue as needed. Mr. Testa said yes.

Mrs. Rodriguez noted a huge increase in Special Education Instructional Supplies for cooking on page 38. Dr. Macary said this was for the NextSTEP program.

Mrs. Fischer noted an increase in AgEd certifications. Dr. Macary said our goal is to get all three teachers certified.

Mr. Kalina noted a decrease in welding supplies. Dr. Macary said we have everything we need.

Mrs. Fischer noted a new line item on page 39 for building & classroom supplies, microphones and speakers. Mr. Testa said these items were included for virtual learning.

Dr. Buxton asked why there was a \$1,500.00 increase for Special Education Reward System/Friday activity and Antonio's items for TALC/ASEP. Dr. Macary said this covers incurred costs and was never done before.

Mr. Brown asked what was included in safety apparel for Cross Country on page 42. Dr. Macary said this covers cones, signage, etc. It's an odd item that they really didn't know where to include, so they placed it here.

Mrs. Fischer asked about a new line item on page 42 for whiteboards. Dr. Macary said we need to replace them after extended use. Eventually, we will phase these out when touchscreens become more popular. Mr. Testa said we are currently piloting touchscreen TVs in a few classrooms. A question was asked about the cost of the touchscreens. Mr. Testa said they are in the \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00 range.

Dr. Buxton asked if we pay for SATs. Dr. Macary said the State pays for them.

The Board concluded their review of the RHS budget.

We will begin with the VCMS budget at the next workshop to be held on Wednesday, January 27th.

6.0 **Adjournment**

The workshop adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Linton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Stephen Linton, Secretary