

The Board of Education

Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Paul Grabowski, Chair
Kristiana Wintress, Vice Chair
Karen Colt, Secretary
Anthony Bedlack
Patricia Buxton
Susan Jablonecki
Kriste Nucci
Simone Sewell
Mason Thrall

February 5, 2024

APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION - SPECIAL MEETING – 2024-2025 PROPOSED BUDGET APPROVAL

A special meeting of the Vernon Board of Education was held in-person and via Zoom Webinar at the Administration Building on Monday, February 5, 2024.

1.0 Establish Quorum

Roll call was taken at 6:02 p.m.

There was a quorum. Board members present: Mr. Grabowski, Ms. Wintress, Ms. Colt, Dr. Buxton, Ms. Nucci, Ms. Sewell and Mr. Thrall. Mr. Bedlack and Mrs. Jablonecki arrived at 6:06 PM.

Administration present: Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Robert Testa and Director of Business and Finance Mr. William Meier III.

2.0 Call to Order

Chair Paul Grabowski called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

4.0 Community Forum

Opportunity for comments on agenda items, potential future agenda items, or general information provided to the Board from citizens and community organizations (Individual speakers shall be limited to five minutes and the total time for public forum shall be limited to 15 minutes.)

Phyllis Winkler of 20 Gottier Drive, Vernon, CT, addressed the Board. She stated she was happy to see that Universal Pre-K was on the Board's list of Budget Priorities. She feels this is extremely important and hopes it comes to fruition. We should work to increase the number of Pre-K students in our District.

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5.0 Approval of the Superintendent's Proposed 2023-2024 Budget

Dr. Macary spoke of the Budget Summary handout distributed to each Board member this evening. The handout summarized the proposed changes made by the Board of Education during the three budget workshops held in January, where every item was reviewed line by line. These changes resulted in a total budget figure of \$60,479,063.00, resulting in an increase of 4.51% over last year's budget. Dr. Buxton thanked everyone for their efforts in putting this budget together. Mr. Thrall said this is a really responsible budget and he feels good about it. Ms. Nucci agreed with Mr. Thrall. She also asked Dr. Macary if he felt there could be any line items that the Town will want to cut. He noted that Medical expenses and Salaries & Wages tend to be the areas of concern that could be adjusted. He noted concerns of sustained inflation, increased wages and the cost of goods and services.

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved to accept and approve the Superintendent's Proposed 2024-2025 Budget totaling \$60,479,063.00 as presented.
SECOND: Dr. Buxton
VOTE: Unanimous

6.0 Adjournment

MOTION: Dr. Buxton made a motion to adjourn at 6:10 PM
SECOND: Ms. Colt
VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Colt, Board Secretary