

**BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2010**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm in the Sayles School Media Room by Claude Pellegrino, Chairman. Members present: Glenn Cheney, Julie Lumpkins, Karen Collins, Kate Tiffany, and Wendy Schnip. Also present: First Selectman Catherine Osten (7:30pm), Treasurer Jeannette Deschamps, Board of Education members: Cheryl Blanchard, Carmella Turner, Terri Woronecki, and Susan Zimmerman, Sayles School administration: Edmund Senesac, Jean Wierzbinski, and Diane LaRowe-Crumb, and General Public: Megan Feinglass.

1. Presentation by and discussion with Sayles School Administration on technology

Jean Wierzbinski and Diane LaRowe-Crumb presented a comparison of technology at Sayles School over the last 7 years as well as uses of technology in the school today.

2. Presentation by and discussion with Board of Education on capital request

The Board reviewed the capital request for technology for the Board of Education. Discussions regarding requests included:

- purchases of laptops vs. desktops for all teachers,
- open source software vs. Microsoft Office licenses,
- spreading technology purchases over 4 years vs. 3 years,
- the school board's intent to increase operating budget line item for technology to purchase future upgrades using yearly operating budget rather than capital requests.
- C. Pellegrino clarified that the BOF's proposal is only for the 2010-2011 fiscal year budget, and subsequent years' purchases will be requested again in the next fiscal year.

3. Presentation by and discussion with Board of Education on operating budget request for 2010-11

Superintendent Ed Senesac presented the operating budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. His opening comments regarded the dire financial picture nationally and in the state of CT. The proposed budget includes a 1.25% increase over previous year's budget – which includes an in-district increase of 5.8% and an out of district decrease of -10.5%.

C. Pellegrino said that since the estimated expenditures for 2009-10 are less than the budget for 2009-10, the capital request for the 2010-11 fiscal year may be paid for in part by the surplus from the current fiscal year.

BOF requested that Supt. Senesac provide a listing of the numbers of students attending the various out-of-district schools, and how it has changed over the last several years.

Meeting was adjourned by general acclamation at 9:20pm

Claude R. Pellegrino, Chairman