

**TOWN COUNCIL AND BOARD OF EDUCATION
JOINT BUDGET WORK SESSION MINUTES**

**TOWN COUNCIL/BOARD OF EDUCATION
TIMOTHY EDWARDS MIDDLE SCHOOL
ROOM ALT. #6**

**DATE: MARCH 23, 2022
TIME: 7:00 P.M**

1. Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Pendleton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Town Council

Members Present: Mayor Liz Pendleton
Deputy Mayor Steven King, Jr.
Councilor Evans
Councilor Philip Koboski
Councilor Lopez
Councilor Karen Lydecker
Councilor Andrew Paterna

Board of Education

Members Present: Arthur Ardduci
Anitha Elango
Beth Esstman
Madison Gonzalez
Dipali Kalia
Lisa Maneeley
Michael Pare
Jessica Waterhouse
Craig Zimmerman

3. Public Input

None

4. Items for Discussion

A. Board of Education Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2022/2023

Mr. Zimmerman stated that since there are new Council and Board members, he will explain the process. 1. Dr. Carter will start with a short power point presentation that will highlight the facilities and the increasing student population which is at the core of the budget request, 2. Followed by any answering questions related to the budget that shall be directed to Dr. Carter.

Dr. Carter discussed the Power Point Presentation on the "Impact of the Ten-Year Plan and Increasing Enrollment through a Facilities Lens".

South Windsor is the fastest growing K-12 school district in the State. The impact of higher enrollment places a burden on the facilities department in areas such as

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IT support/device deployment, increase staffing, budget implications, teaching and learning, and school safety and supervision. The presentation focused on the school facilities and the growth of each facility with space/classrooms, increasing student population, and additional staffing needs. The need to return Wapping School to a High School as an annex is a result of a projected increase of 478 students in the next 10 years. During the transition of moving the Parks and Recreations Department out of the Wapping School, the Board of Education offers its support. Lastly, the BOE is prepared to turn over Orchard Hill Elementary School to the Town for either temporary or permanent use for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Councilor Lydecker gave recognition to the schools and teachers for all their hard work in the past two years during the pandemic

Deputy Mayor King asked about the staffing and the transition going from the actual number of teachers to the proposed number of teachers.

Dr. Carter reported that in determining the projected amount of teachers needed depends on the enrollment projections.

Deputy Mayor King asked about the diversity of our teachers. He asked Dr. Carter if she has considered the program of CREC teaching fellows.

Dr. Carter stated that CREC has come to the BOE to present about that program. At the time of the presentation with BOE and CREC, the Board of Education hired 11 teachers of color. The CREC Teaching Fellows program is normally for 1-2 positions at \$ 65,000 per district.

Deputy Mayor King asked the BOE how many hearing impaired students do we have in the school system and do we have funds dedicated for a hearing impaired personnel.

Dr. Carter responded by informing the Council that she does not know exactly how many hearing impaired students are in the district, but they are supported through these services with a full time dedicated teacher.

Mayor Pendleton thanked Dr. Carter for her presentation. She would like the citizens to understand that the BOE has presented a good budget, higher than last years but its enrollment driven. You have more students you need more staff.

5. Executive Session
None

6. Adjournment

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Mayor Pendleton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. Councilor Kozikowski seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Barone

Temporary Clerk of the Council