

**Litchfield Board of Finance  
Special Meeting Minutes  
March 16, 2015**

**Call to Order:** Chairman David Geiger called the meeting to order in the LIS Art Room at 7:07pm with Ed Gadomski, David Wilson, Anne Dranginis, Mitchell Fishman, Brenda Barnes, and Sky Post (Alt.) present.

Absent: Ed Weik (Alt.)

Also present: Lynn McMullin, Frank Simone, John Bongiorno, Wayne Shuhi, John McKenna

**Board of Education Budget Proposal:**

Lynn McMullin, Superintendent of Schools, distributed copies of her Letter of Transmittal and presented an overview of the BOE proposed 2015-2016 budget. She said the budget of \$17,272,981 was accepted at the BOE's March 4, 2015 meeting. It represents an overall increase of \$692,340, or 4.18%, over last year's budget.

Ms. McMullin said two notable increases in the budget are for a new math curriculum and the technology to support it. The new Common Core State Standards require a much deeper level of math comprehension that expects teachers and students to adapt to new strategies. The "student activities" line has increases for the PSAT test to be given to LHS sophomores and juniors and transportation for all athletic contests.

There is a new line item of \$40,000 for Kelly Services to provide teacher substitutes and an \$110,000 loan repayment to the town for computer leases. There are also corrections for utilities that were previously under-budgeted. She said budget decreases totaling \$95,624 were made in February 2015.

She reviewed the core beliefs and the budgeting process, which was already under discussion when she arrived in January 2015. She detailed the projected growth, ranking of advanced placement scores, need for small class sizes, student use of technology, especially to support the math curriculum, pre-school expansion for four-year-olds and a daycare program for Center School.

Ms. McMullin, Art Poole and Wayne Shuhi answered questions about salary increases and additional staff including a guidance counselor for Center School and a Special-Ed teacher for LIS as well as cafeteria aides, a crossing guard, and assistant librarian at LHS to meet additional student safety or supervision needs.

Ms. McMullin said the BOE has just signed an employment contract for a new Business Manager and that \$110,000 salary is included. She and John Bongiorno answered questions about desktops, a CAD Lab, and iPads for second and third grade students. Mr. Bongiorno said they have an Ad Hoc Technology Committee to create a five-year technology plan. He noted that the Capital budget of \$652,500 was "light" this year since Public Works has taken over a lot of their previous Capital items.

Chairman Geiger said the BOF would like to see the BOE long-range Capital Plan for technology and Frank Simone said this will be provided. In answer to a question about OPEB, Art Poole said there is only one or two more years left to pay out retiring employees that were part of the retirement plan that is no longer being offered. Chairman Geiger noted \$3Mil is needed to fund this.

David Wilson noted that the BOE budget should be sufficiently accurate that there are no unexpended funds at the end of the year. Ms. McMullin said it's difficult to budget for substitute teachers but this year the use of Kelly Services should help reduce a surplus.

Brenda Barnes asked if the BOE could make more cuts in their budget and Frank Simon said they have made the budget as tight as possible. John Bongiorno added that a great deal of the increase has to do with state mandates such as Common Core, and the BOE has no control over that. Frank Simone said he would bring BOF feedback to the BOE at their Wednesday meeting and will report back to the BOF. Chairman Geiger suggested a 2.1% increase and asked that BOE representatives attend the March 30 BOF special meeting.

**Public Comment on the Board of Education of Budget Only:**

There was no public comment.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion:** David Wilson moved to adjourn at 10:50pm and Ed Gadomski seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Jaacks  
Recording Secretary