

Chair Leith turned the meeting over to Interim Superintendent Gasbarro. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro took a moment to thank District staff for the time and attention put into preparing the proposed FY14 appropriation. Hard copies of a PowerPoint presentation were provided to members (attachment 2). Members were also provided with three budget scenarios – Scenario 1 CUT \$750K (attachment 3/“pink sheet”), Scenario 2 CUT \$300K (attachment 4/“yellow sheet”), and Scenario 3 add \$200K (attachment 5/“blue sheet”). Interim Superintendent Gasbarro spoke to the information on the PowerPoint presentation, explaining the information on the slides. At Interim Superintendent Gasbarro’s request, Director of Human Resources Susan Sullivan spoke about staffing and what changes have been made to the proposed appropriation since the March 2, 2013 Annual School Committee Retreat, specifically calling the Committee’s attention to Scenario 2.

7:07 PM Member Kosky joined the meeting.

Members of the School Committee were given the opportunity to ask questions of Director Sullivan. Member Kelley voiced her opinion about the need to restore a security guard at Wachusett Regional High School. Member Mills voiced his opinion that library aides, at least half time, should be restored.

For discussion purposes, Interim Superintendent Gasbarro distributed two documents – Possible Reductions FY14 (attachment 6) and Reduction of Middle School Foreign Language FY14 (attachment 7). Discussion around the information on the two handouts ensued, particularly how a reduction of middle school foreign language would impact scheduling. Many members of the Committee participated in the discussion.

Member Harris stated that if the future direction of the District is that the two schools in Sterling will be considered one school, under one principal, that is a serious matter that needs to be thoroughly and seriously studied and discussed, and should not just be something that stays as Houghton/Chocksett under one principal, done for budgetary reasons in FY13. That sort of a decision must be based on what is best for the students, staff, and community in Sterling.

III. Public Hearing

Amy Brassard, Sterling resident, addressed the School Committee

IV. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the Annual Budget Hearing.

(S. Hammond)
(S. Jackson)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The Annual Budget Hearing adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony A. Gasbarro
Interim Superintendent of Schools

AAG/rlp