

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING  
APRIL 13, 2006**

The Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education held its annual budget hearing on April 13, 2006 at Burr Elementary School. Board of Education Chairman Robert Baranoff called the hearing to order at 7 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Jo Ferjak, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Nancy Gorski, Diane Stock, Robert Baranoff, Richard Cabral, Mark Almeida, Michael Trahan, and Daniel Cronin.

Members absent: Mary Withington and Douglas Stevenson.

Also present: Superintendent of Schools Gary S. Mala, Director of Finance and Operations Gary J. Shettle, and Board Clerk Ann Lang,

**Board Presentation of 2006-07 Budget**

Mr. Baranoff stated that the purpose of the meeting was to present the Board's proposed 2006-07 budget. He reviewed the budget process to date, noting the Board has had a number of budget workshops. In addition, they met with representatives from the Haddam and Killingworth Boards of Selectmen and Finance, parents groups, residents and staff.

Mr. Baranoff noted that the Board's proposed budget for 2006-07 is \$32,705,012, which is an increase of 7.85 percent over the 2005-06 budget. He stated that the new school accounts for a 3.76 percent increase in the proposed budget. One of the Board's major considerations in their review of the budget was class size. He also noted the significant rise in utility costs.

Mr. Baranoff turned the meeting over to Mr. Cronin, Chairman of the Finance Committee, who reviewed specific areas of the budget. He stated that the district has saved \$558,731 as a result of offering a voluntary retirement incentive plan this year. Twenty-five certified staff members have accepted the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Plan. He also reviewed the impact of increasing class size in an attempt to save money. Mr. Cronin noted that District 17 should receive \$578,005 in State reimbursement for 2006-07, which represents 1.8 percent of the budget request. He also reviewed educational cost sharing funds (Haddam will receive \$1,178,623; Killingworth will receive \$2,043,668), noting that this money is given back to the towns' general funds and does not get applied to the budget.

Mr. Cronin opened the meeting to questions from the audience. Susan Dean, teacher at Killingworth Elementary School stated that staff has been involved in cutting costs and hoped the general public was aware that all staff members are working to control costs. Betty Devlin, teacher at the middle school, thanked the Board and the Superintendent for the time spent on preparing the budget and for controlling spending. She applauded the measures taken regarding leasing of technology and group purchasing but noted her concern about the elimination of a special education teacher at the middle school. High school teacher Geoff Korper stated the staff is supportive of the Board's efforts and hopes the budget passes as

quickly as possible. He offered to work cooperatively with the Board to help make that happen.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lang, Board Clerk

Approval:

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Amy Jacques-Purdy, Secretary

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Date

**Approved as presented at the May 9, 2006 Board of Education meeting.**

*S:ann:minutes/annual hrg 4.13.06*