CALL TO ORDER: 6:07 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE
Members:  Jay Pramberg, Chair  Walter Tate, Vice-Chair
Karen O'Malley Recorder  Beth Ann Scanlon
Nancy Ross, School Board Representative

Administration:  Dr. Brian Blake Superintendent
Carol Coppola Business Manager

Review of Agenda:

COMMITTEE COMMENT: none

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION to go into joint session with the school committee:  Mr. Pramberg
SECOND: Ms. O'Malley
Vote: Unanimous.

This meeting is the annual combined School Committee/Budget Committee Budget presentation by the school administration. There was a special guest present an exchange administrator from China visiting several school systems around the country. Debora Bamforth Principal of DJ Bakie Elementary will be going to China in the spring.

Dr. Blake gave a review of how the budget process works. He then proceeded through the proposed budget packet talking about the goals and strategic plan and high performing schools. He presented the overall budget and noted that the majority of the increases are due to things beyond their control such as teacher raises, increases in utility costs (up 16.86%), and the state no longer paying into the teacher retirement plan. The requested amount is $30,388,768 up 3.95% over last year.

Each school principal presented their budget and discussed how they were progressing on the goals. Some of the changes and the resulting improvements have been noticed by other districts and some of our administrators have gone and given lectures on what this district is doing.

There was an explanation of the new competency based grading.

The Bakie school increased the school day by 10 min at the suggestion of the teachers.

Kurt Baitz of the school board gave us some statistics on foreclosed homes in Newton and Kingston and on the food pantries problem keeping up with demand in this economy.

At the end of the presentation the Budget Committee retired to an adjoining room for a short philosophical discussion

Correspondence:  None

COMMITTEE COMMENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Next meeting:
Next meeting December 8th at 5:30 in room 100.

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Scanlon
Second: Ms. O’Malley
Vote: unanimous

Meeting Adjourned: 9:04 pm

Respectfully submitted:
Karen O’Malley,
Meeting Recorder

PLEASE NOTE: MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING