

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: William Blake, Rita Gedansky, Thomas Hurley

Also Present: John Brady, Stanley Gedansky, Jack Levine, Marianne Lippard, Terry Lumas

The Annual District Meeting for the 2013-2014 Budget was held on Tuesday, May 7, 2013, at 5:30 p.m. in the Presentation Room at the Amity District Offices. A presentation of the budget was offered, and the meeting adjourned to a machine/ballot vote to be held in the Towns of Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge on Wednesday, May 8, 2013.

- 1. Call to Order:** William Blake, chairman of the Board of Education, called the Annual District Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
- 2. Election of Meeting Moderator**
Ms. Gedansky nominated Mr. Blake as moderator of the meeting; Mr. Gedansky seconded the nomination. Further nominations were requested, but none were offered. A voice vote to appoint Mr. Blake as moderator was unanimous.
- 3. Presentation of the Budget**
The budget development process began in August. The Superintendent worked with his staff over a seven-month period. The Amity Finance Committee and Board of Education then worked on the budget during the months of January, February, March and April.

The total budget request of \$44,478,455 is an increase of \$865,293, or 1.98 percent above the current \$43,613,162 budget. The increase in the budget is due primarily to an increase of \$589,983 in salaries and \$127,362 in medical and dental insurance. All other accounts are increased by a total of \$147,948. The Board of Education has developed its budget with consideration to both current economic conditions and the District's "Missions-Goals-Objectives."

Salaries are based on 313.30 full-time equivalent positions (FTE). Contractual salary increases total \$721,436. The budget adds 1.6 full-time equivalent positions, including mandated special education staff and one-half security guard for the High School for \$71,476. The budget eliminates 3.2 FTE teaching positions at a savings of \$234,323. Overall, salaries will increase by \$589,983.

Medical, dental and prescription drug expenditures will be higher by \$127,362. The District has a self-funded insurance program. Medical inflation is the primary reason for the higher costs.

**Amity Regional School District No. 5
Board of Education
Annual District Meeting on the Budget**

May 7, 2013

Past budgets have postponed the purchase of technology equipment. The proposed budget includes an increase of \$229,358 for replacement computers and laptops, and other technology equipment.

Improvements to buildings and sites will increase by \$97,006, which includes sidewalk repairs; asphalt sealing and crack repairs of parking lot; and re-sodding crown of football field.

The new Common Core State Standards and Teacher and Administrator Evaluations will require the District to spend funds. Federal and State unfunded or underfunded mandates will impact the budget by \$250,400.

Debt service is principal and interest payments on the approved construction projects at the High School and Middle Schools. Based on the financial health of Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge, and the financial management in Amity, Moody's Investors Service, Inc. kept the District's bond rating at Aa2. This had a favorable impact on the District's last three bond issues. The savings on the interest costs are reflected in the budget. Debt Service will decrease by \$451,179.

Motion to waive with the reading of the budget by Dr. Brady (Mr. Gedansky, 2d Ms. Gedansky).

Vote in favor unanimous.

Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn to a machine/ballot vote to be held in the towns of Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge on Wednesday, May 8, 2013 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Mr. Hurley, 2d Mr. Gedansky).

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:31 p.m. (Mr. Hurley, 2d Ms. Gedansky).

Motion passed; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Lippard, recording clerk