



**TOWN OF ROCKY HILL  
BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET WORKSHOP  
MEETING MINUTES/MOTIONS**

**In order to comply with Connecticut General Statutes regarding minutes of meetings, the following will be used to record information during all public meetings that take place. An original must be submitted to the Town Clerk of Rocky Hill within 48 hours of the meeting being adjourned. Motions should be complete, showing the maker and second of the motion as well as how each member voted. Unanimous votes may be listed as unanimous.**

NAME OF PUBLIC BOARD OR COMMISSION	Board of Education (Budget Workshop)
DATE MEETING AGENDA POSTED	February 3, 2009
LOCATION	Council Chambers
DATE OF MEETING	February 9, 2009
TIME MEETING STARTED	6:03 p.m.
PERSON PREPARING MEETING MINUTES	Jo-Anne Booth, Recording Secretary
VERBATIM NOTES TAKEN	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
AUDIO, VIDEO OR LIVE TRANSMISSION OF MEETING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**MEMBERS PRESENT AT MEETING**

1. William MacDonald, Chairman	2. Rene (Skip) Rivard, Vice Chairman (Entered at 6:05 p.m.)
3. Nadine Bell	4. Raffaella Calciano-Coler
5. Charles McMonigle	6. Maria Mennella (Entered at 6:05 p.m.)
7. Frank Morse	8. Catherine Vargas
9. Charles Wisnioski	10. Also present: Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Villar
11. Assistant Superintendent Marian Hourigan	12. Interim Finance Director Frank Connolly
13. Principal Mario Almeida	14. Fred Ames (Technology Coordinator)
15. Lynn Boisvert (Bookkeeper)	16. Principal Audrey Boutaugh
17. Darlene Brown (Coordinator of Language Arts)	18. Principal Cori-Ann DiMaggio
19. Dr. Cathrynn Riggs (Director of Special Education and Pupil Services)	20. Principal Rick Watson
21. Assistant Principal John Colonghi (Left at 7:40 p.m.)	22. Councilor Phil Sylvestro

NUMBER REQUIRED FOR QUORUM 5 QUORUM PRESENT  Yes  No

TEXT MOTIONS AND RESULTS VOTES

1st MOTION  Passed  Failed  Tabled

**Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Charles McMonigle, to take a recess at 7:30 p.m.**

**FAVOR: ALL  
MOTION CARRIED**

2nd MOTION  Passed  Failed  Tabled

**Moved by Rene (Skip) Rivard, seconded by Raffaella Calciano-Coler, that the Board of Education accept the Superintendent's Budget of \$28,541,391.00, which is an increase of 4.96%. (This is to be moved to the full Board of Education for its regular meeting on February 12, 2009 for it to be discussed and in which a formal vote will be taken with regards to its adoption and it being sent to the Town Council.)**

**FAVOR: Bell, Calciano-Coler, MacDonald, McMonigle, Mennella, Morse, Rivard, Vargas  
OPPOSED: Wisnioski**

**MOTION CARRIED**

3rd MOTION  Passed  Failed  Tabled

**Moved by Raffaella Calciano-Coler, seconded by Frank Morse, to adjourn the budget workshop at 8:42 p.m.**

**FAVOR: ALL  
MOTION CARRIED**

LINK TO WORKING NOTES (will be attached if available)

ACTION

CORRECTION(S) (will be attached if available)

TIME MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:42 p.m.

TIME DELIVERED TO TOWN CLERK: \_\_\_\_\_.

**TOWN OF ROCKY HILL  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BUDGET WORKSHOP OF FEBRUARY 9, 2009**

**Members Present:** William MacDonald (Chairman)  
Rene (Skip) Rivard (Vice Chairman) (Entered at 6:05 p.m.)  
Nadine Bell  
Raffaella Calciano-Coler  
Charles McMonigle  
Maria Mennella (Entered at 6:05 p.m.)  
Frank Morse  
Catherine Vargas  
Charles Wisnioski

**Also Present:** Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Villar  
Assistant Superintendent Marian Hourigan  
Interim Finance Director Frank Connolly  
Principal Mario Almeida  
Principal Audrey Boutaugh  
Principal Cori-Ann DiMaggio  
Principal Rick Watson  
Assistant Principal John Colonghi (Left at 7:40 p.m.)  
Dr. Cathrynn Riggs (Director of Special Education and  
Pupil Services)  
Mr. Fred Ames (Technology Coordinator)  
Mrs. Darlene Brown (Coordinator of Language Arts)  
Ms. Lynn Boisvert (Bookkeeper)  
Councilor Phil Sylvestro

A budget workshop of the Board of Education was held on Monday, February 9, 2009 in the Council Chambers of the Rocky Hill Town Hall. Chairman William MacDonald called the budget workshop to order at 6:03 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**1. Board Discussion and Possible Action on Superintendent's Budget Proposal**

Chairman MacDonald told Superintendent Dr. Villar that he would turn this budget workshop over to him because he thought he had some comments and some information from the last budget session that they had. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he would share with everyone the speaking points that he had prepared with regards to some questions that had either been posed at the last budget session or between the budget sessions when people e-mailed him, etc.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said he would begin with an overview of the federal funding and some of the changes that may be at play based on the Stimulus Package that is before the Senate now. He said he would also do an overview of the state educational revenues to this town. There is some insight in the Governor's budget as to where this may be going. Some questions would be answered this evening about the Virtual High School. Some time would be spent on the transportation issue. There would be a review of the sunsets and buyout clauses that had been asked at the last Board of Education meeting. A series of recommendations with regards to adjustments on the budget that he prepared for this evening would be looked at also. These recommendations are both for increases and decreases based on the conversations during the last few budget sessions. During this, the proposed Language Arts Program and some other minor changes would be spoken about.

Superintendent Dr. Villar gave a very brief description of federal funding and changes that are in play. This is speculative until it is signed in as law.

Chairman MacDonald said he had failed to open up this budget workshop for public comment first. He asked if there was anyone in the public who wished to share any comments at this time. Mr. Scott Coleman, 200 Cold Spring Road, R.H. said he wanted to do something while this was a budget meeting and while all of the principals were present. He gave a gift that he prepared to Principal Almeida for his office with regards to the "Cool School" event that had just taken place at Rocky Hill High School last Friday. Mr. Coleman told everyone that he also had DVDs of this event for all of them and these included photo slideshows. He thanked Dan Haute and Andrew Duarte for providing the photos.

Mr. Coleman said he had previously asked some questions with regards to technology. He wanted to know if this was going to be discussed this evening or if there were any comments back on this. Chairman MacDonald said as this relates to the budget that everything is open. The budget is a full transparent one. As technology is spoken about, he mentioned that Superintendent Dr. Villar might have comments or the Board of Education members might have comments on the technology side because he knew that there were several that would be coming up. He asked Mr. Coleman if he wanted to wait to see what they have on this because he thought that would be the more appropriate time. Mr. Coleman passed out a F.O.I. request for some documents and he hoped that it wouldn't put too much of a burden on them. He is looking for some information to be furnished to him and he said that maybe he can give some input back. He thanked them for their time.

Superintendent Dr. Villar referred back to the possible federal funding that is involved in the Stimulus Package that could impact the budget. At the last budget workshop, it was discussed briefly and documentation had been distributed with regards to there potentially being \$256,300 that exists in Bills before the House and Senate. This is for Special Education Funding through IDEA. One of the important documents they had

received this week was a notification from the State Department of Education of Connecticut. This reminded districts about concerns with regulations as far as supplanting or using new funds from the federal government to replace items that are currently being funded under the Board of Education budget. They were strongly cautioned not to include this funding as part of the budget. Superintendent Dr. Villar said this won't be seen as part of any recommendation that he will make this evening but this is something that they need to be cognizant of because ultimately it could impact their situation. With this new funding, this district would have to look at expanding programs or finding items or costs that are currently not picked up by the Board of Education to use these funds for. This will be monitored. He then referred to another piece of the stimulation grant that is \$82,700. This is earmarked for school construction and this is proposed. This proposed legislation could be used for technology expenditures potentially. They will keep monitoring this. Throughout the spring, they will see some fluctuations and perhaps change as a result of lobbying, etc. for these different programs. These two areas of federal funding may impact Rocky Hill.

Superintendent Dr. Villar asked Interim Finance Director Connolly to speak about what is known about the local funding from the State Department of Education for the ECS Grants to Rocky Hill. Superintendent Dr. Villar said Governor Rell shared her budget with everyone on February 4, 2009 and he thinks there is relatively good news with regards to ECS. Interim Finance Director Connolly said the Governor's budget was rather benign to municipalities throughout the state. As the ECS numbers were looked at, there was a collective sigh of relief. This is the largest grant coming down to towns and cities. A brief analysis of ECS money was sent to the Board of Education members and also the transportation funds that were received from the state were compared. The ECS Grant stayed the same as the current 2008-2009 year and the transportation grant went down. There is a slight reduction in the payment in lieu of taxes on the town side. The Mashantucket and Mohegan Grants, town road aid and LOCIP stayed the same. Overall, when the budgets coming from the state to Rocky Hill are looked at, there is a slight decrease of 1.9% and this is because ECS is the "lion's share" of grants coming into the town. Overall, they are fairly stable in the grants that are coming down from the state. The state grants are only part of the picture and the other part of the picture that the town is working on is the Grand List and what is going on with it. All of this is ongoing now but at least the revenue side of the budget is fairly stable with only a 1.9% reduction.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said the Virtual High School Program was spoken about a lot during the last budget workshop. Questions had been raised about other programs that might be available for Rocky Hill to consider as well. He asked Assistant Superintendent Hourigan to prepare a brief report about these other programs and he said they would share why they concluded that the Virtual High School would move Rocky Hill forward the best.

Assistant Superintendent Hourigan said Ms. Boisvert was passing out a document to everyone with regards to some of the other programs in Connecticut that this district

might be interested in. The other programs are: the Connecticut Virtual Learning Center and the Virtual Learning Academy. She explained more about these programs. She then explained about the Virtual High School which had been spoken about previously. There are a large number of schools within Connecticut that are involved in the Virtual High School. There are a number within CREC which is this town's regional district. Success is being reported for this and people are very happy with the use of Virtual High School. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan thinks Virtual High School might help Rocky Hill with some of the electives and also it would expand what could be offered to students.

Assistant Superintendent Hourigan asked if there were any questions about Virtual High School. Mrs. Bell said she knew that there are a lot of policy issues that of yet have to be determined. She believes that February is the timeframe when students select courses for the upcoming year. She asked how this is going to be advertised to the students to give equal access to whatever students they deem qualified for the program because it will be the next couple of weeks when the students will be selecting their courses. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan said they have thought about this as well and they met with Principal Almeida and the Guidance Department as well as Principal DiMaggio who has done extensive research on Virtual High School so that the logistics of this could be spoken about. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan agreed with Mrs. Bell and she said there are a tremendous amount of policy decisions that the Board of Education has to make before this can be proceeded with. They have to see how they progress with this. Virtual High School can't be offered now because it hasn't been approved by the Board of Education and the very important decisions haven't been made. There is a possibility that if this was not able to get done in a timely fashion before the courses were all selected and determined then maybe this would have to be implemented in January of next year and maybe not September. Mrs. Bell asked what the "drop dead date" would be. She asked when the time is that the final master schedule is run and they have to be "good to go". Assistant Superintendent Hourigan asked Principal Almeida if this is sometime in May and Principal Almeida said it is sometime in May. The schedules are done and copies can be made of the schedule so that the students have something in their hands before they leave for the summer. Mrs. Bell asked if it is anticipated that many of the issues will be resolved by then. Superintendent Dr. Villar thinks the policy issues can be resolved especially because Rocky Hill is not the first district coming on board with this. This district is doing a lot of reaching out to districts that are a couple of years ahead in the implementation and this district is learning from what the other districts' struggles were. An agreement has also been arranged with the Virtual High School that would protect this district's interest in the sense that this district needs to identify and train staff well before the budget will be finalized. The understanding is that there will be no cost to Rocky Hill if the budget, through Board of Education action, does not include the Virtual High School. If this has to be eliminated, then this district will not be billed for any training that its teachers would participate in, in the spring.

Mrs. Vargas referred to her notes from the last budget workshop. She said there is the annual membership of \$5,250 and there is a stipend of \$3,000. She asked if the cost for

the teacher training (\$3,500 and \$1,500) is also in this because she didn't have these costs. Superintendent Dr. Villar said those will be covered by Title II and Assistant Superintendent Hourigan said that she would be able to do this through funding she has through Title II funds. Mrs. Vargas asked if this \$5,000 is offline and Assistant Superintendent Hourigan said that was correct.

Mr. McMonigle asked if the .2FTE is in the budget. Superintendent Dr. Villar said there currently is a .2FTE at Rocky Hill High School in the English Department. There was a .6 shift in English FTEs from last year to this year. Last year, a .6FTE overall was added to Rocky Hill High School as far as English goes. Through the course of this year, a teacher was identified who was teaching on a temporary certificate from the State Department of Education in the Social Studies Department although this teacher is primarily certified as an English teacher. This certification will no longer be effective at the end of this year so this teacher will have to resume teaching English courses only. This will give the English Department three more semester courses of FTEs who are available. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he had a conversation with Principal Almeida and they discussed if FTEs should be eliminated in the English Department or if the school can make use of this additional resource. There was also a discussion as to how Social Studies would be negatively impacted by the reduction of this resource. Their position at this point is that the resources can best be used in English. There is the need for an additional reading course that exists which is on the books but hasn't been run for some time. There is also the need for some additional English graduation requirements that can be met more easily with this FTE allocation. They had conversations with the Department Chair of the Social Studies Department and electives that are popular won't run in psychology as a direct result of the reduction of the .3FTEs from Social Studies. Mr. Bruno is confident that he can meet his graduation requirements assigned to his department. He felt that this arrangement was the best that could be made with the FTEs they have. The only other solution would be to add FTEs to the Social Studies Department. This would be at the expense of adding to the overall bottom line of the budget or reducing English. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he supported neither of these at this point.

Mr. McMonigle referred to the Title II money (\$5,000) and he asked if this is in addition to the \$5,500 that they are getting. He asked if there will still be \$5,000 to do other things with if Virtual High School is not run. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan said this money is earmarked for professional development for teachers. Mr. McMonigle referred to the .6FTE in English and he asked if they will be coming back to that topic. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they will if necessary but he thought this would be a good time for any additional questions if there were any because he said it is very complicated. He was trying to simplify it as best he could.

Mrs. Bell told Superintendent Dr. Villar that she understands his position on the English and the need for that. Mrs. Bell told Superintendent Dr. Villar that she respected his decision. Mrs. Bell said she has a concern for electives in general. Ten years ago when

she was on the Accreditation Committee, Rocky Hill High School was cited for not having enough electives at that time for the students. She said they are going back into the accreditation. Potentially there are seventy-five children because the courses are overenrolled and they won't be holding them now. She didn't see where they would pick up these numbers in the Virtual High School or elsewhere. She expressed a concern about electives in general and she said she didn't want them to get in a position where there are issues when they go through the accreditation at the high school.

Superintendent Dr. Villar told Mrs. Bell that he thought she raised a very good point. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he and Principal Almeida spoke at length about this. As a result of this additional FTE, there are English electives that will run. Superintendent Dr. Villar said student choice is impacted because they are popular courses. The Virtual High School will give some children an opportunity. At this point, twenty students are being talked about for this but he thinks this will bode well during the accreditation visit. If online learning is something this district is moving forward with, he thinks this will offset it. Some psychology will still be offered but not to the extent that it was this year. This is popular and it is a course that can be offered through the Virtual High School. He told Mrs. Bell that her point is well taken and that they have to be careful about electives. A full review has begun of courses offered and it will be a long process. Superintendent Dr. Villar anticipates bringing the program of studies to the Board of Education for review in the future. He anticipates a need for some changes as they look at the number of teachers they have, efficiencies (how they are going to make all of this work), etc. and as they look at their schedule. It is very difficult to schedule a small high school and it makes it even more complex when semester courses are trying to be fit in. They are beginning a dialogue as to how they can make this work better and meet the needs of the students as well as do well with the NEASC visit.

Mr. Wisnioski didn't think it was fair to say what the overall snapshot of Rocky Hill High School in 2009 is in terms of electives based on a comment that was made ten years ago. In his opinion, there is not enough core and there are too many electives. He said it doesn't mean that a course is useful just because it is popular. He thinks the whole discussion is much broader with regards to what the electives are and how many electives there are. This shouldn't impact a new concept of the Virtual High School that he hopes the high school welcomes. Virtual High School will offer twenty different courses for every .2FTE that they teach. Mrs. Bell said she wasn't suggesting that they trade electives for the Virtual High School. She is in support of the Virtual High School but she thinks they need to be very careful about taking away electives that are extremely popular and that have been through Board of Education review and approved. Chairman MacDonald knew there would be plenty of time in Curriculum Committee meetings for this. He said he would like to try to focus on what is in front of them and as it relates to the budget if they could.

Mr. McMonigle had concerns about taking two courses out of the curriculum because he thought part of their job is offering a diverse curriculum and part of their job is allowing children to explore the different disciplines to see what peaks their interest for college as

well as for the future. He said the cost to run two sections of the psychology course is approximately \$19,000. For the Virtual Academy, it will cost \$24,000 for twenty children. He said this doesn't make a whole lot of sense if they want to "boil this down" to pure economics. There has to be some balance here and he would like to revisit this curriculum question because it is not quite that "cut and dry". He thinks there are a lot of different reasons to offer a lot of courses within the high school.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said his position is that it is up to the Board of Education with regards to whether they move forward or not with the Virtual High School initiative. Psychology will continue to be offered but it will be in a reduced fashion. This option does exist but not to the extent that it does now. They will make sure that they execute this in whatever manner the Board of Education sees fit.

Chairman MacDonald said he is fully supportive of the Virtual High School. He asked Superintendent Dr. Villar if the amount in his proposed budget includes the startup money for the Virtual High School. Superintendent Dr. Villar said that was correct. Chairman MacDonald asked if the proposed budget gets approved if this amount would be in the amount that is being approved. Superintendent Dr. Villar said yes.

Mrs. Vargas asked what the .2FTE will do if the Virtual High School doesn't happen until January. Superintendent Dr. Villar said the advantage they have of this individual who has volunteered and been selected to teach this course if it happens is in the English department. This allows them to easily make changes in the schedule. When doing scheduling, the opening and closing of sections is easy to do particularly if there is advance knowledge of the need to do it and there are some extra courses offered. They can be absolutely certain that this individual will have a class to teach either with actual bodies in front of him or in electronic format.

Mr. Morse said this is the first time that he is seeing anything about the Connecticut Virtual Learning Center. This does have AP courses and World Language courses. He asked if it is the advanced World Language courses that they typically have trouble filling at the high school as well as the AP courses that are at the advanced level. Superintendent Dr. Villar said the quick answer to this would be yes. When they had looked at the recommendation of the Virtual High School over some of the other programs, it was because of the strength of the curriculum that it offered. In the future, they may want to go down the roads of the other programs as well because they meet the needs of students in different ways which is more about a credit recovery. With this type of program of the Virtual High School, they may be able to address some scheduling conflicts so that children who really want to be involved in higher level courses can get them even if they don't fit in their schedule. There are also courses (i.e. Chinese) as part of the Virtual High School that this district never could economically afford to run. Through the Virtual High School there will be some courses they can run that this district would never have the manpower to offer.

Vice Chairman Rivard referred to the Connecticut Virtual Learning Center. He said there are no more than five students in a course and he asked if this means no more than five of Rocky Hill's students or if this means that the course is limited to five students. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan said it means five of this district's students.

With regards to the electives and because it was brought up in their last accreditation visit, Vice Chairman Rivard was sure that an annual report is filed with NEASC that addresses this. Superintendent Dr. Villar said NEASC doesn't require an annual report but once there is a visitation, there are follow-up reports that are filed with them. The extent to which follow-up is asked for depends on how well they do on their visitation. Vice Chairman Rivard referred to the last question on the electives. He asked if it was a recommendation or if they were cited for it. Mrs. Bell thinks it was a recommendation and not an official citation. Superintendent Dr. Villar said this district has not been cited for anything from NEASC.

Chairman MacDonald said the world has changed dramatically in ten years. They would hate to go down the "slippery slope" where they start trying to evaluate cost per pupil. He didn't think the appropriate time to do this was today and he thinks all of the courses should be looked at. The Board of Education will look at the program of studies that Superintendent Dr. Villar indicated he will bring in front of them. The Board of Education will decide as a group of nine members where they want to go.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said the transportation contract had been discussed during the last budget workshop. A lot of questions came out of that and Interim Finance Director Connolly composed a memo that had been distributed ahead of time to the Board of Education members. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they would like to go through this memo to make sure there is an understanding of that very complex situation as they move forward.

Interim Finance Director Connolly said a memo was sent out to the Board of Education members that dealt with the bus contract. He tried to break down the contract and the interpretation of the contract as well as some of the steps and the implications involved in it. He said he added some attachments to this and then on his third page he referred to how many gallons of diesel fuel they had. He put a series of "Xs" in there. Mr. Wisnioski had asked these questions of him and he wanted to keep these as a placeholder as they are looking at the numbers. They are doing quite a series of calculations in trying to balance this out. Interim Finance Director Connolly said he attached information on the Consumer Price Index to show how prior contracts had been worked out. Spreadsheets come in every month from the bus company and these show how the gallons of fuel consumed by bus and by van are calculated. It is fairly complex. He told the Board of Education members that if they had any specific questions, he would respond to them. Interim Finance Director Connolly said they are still doing a little work on some of the calculations to get them ready. He told the Board of Education members that hopefully they will have a chance to take a look at some of the conclusions. He said

he presented some options to them with regards to the current contract and the purchase of fuel as well as the bus contract itself.

Chairman MacDonald thinks there will be a lot of detailed discussion in the Finance Committee meetings going forward about the bidding process and what they should do going forward as well as looking forward to a reconciliation of purchase versus use on the fuel which is the first time this will be done. He said this should be done during a Finance Committee meeting. He asked the Board of Education members if they had any comments.

Mr. Wisnioski said he met with Superintendent Dr. Villar and Interim Finance Director Connolly about the bus contract. The past practice raises a lot of questions. Administration is giving this a very hard look. Mr. Wisnioski believes that what did come out of this is that the present budget document originally had a 2% increase for the bus contract but it appears now that this is likely to go to no increase. He asked Interim Finance Director Connolly if this is correct and he said it is. Interim Finance Director Connolly said the Consumer Price Index has gone from 2% down to 0%. Right now, they are at 1% and when Superintendent Dr. Villar presents the budget adjustments, it will be seen that they took a savings out of that because of some questions that Interim Finance Director Connolly had with regards to the fuel purchase itself. Interim Finance Director Connolly thought they were going to have some savings but he is backing off of that position and he feels that they should leave this as it is because of the complexity of the fuel purchase which is buried in this account. When they get to this point, he will go into more detail. Mr. Wisnioski believes from this investigation that has been undergone and that they continue undergoing that a lot has been learned about purchasing bus services and fuels so this should help in the future.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said the Board of Education had asked for a review of the buyouts/sunset accounts that exist. This would be the Early Retirement Plan that had been adopted a few budget cycles ago. Also attached to this are the funds as well as any retirement payouts and funds as well as computer leasing types of relationships. He asked Interim Finance Director Connolly to go through this. Interim Finance Director Connolly referred the Board of Education members to the memo dated January 6, 2009. This is two parts. The upper part of this is the Board of Education's request for the current lease arrangements that this district has. The two leases are the copier lease and the computer lease. The computer lease for the 2008-2009 school year is \$148,000 and this will drop to \$50,000 next year. The copier lease for the 2008-2009 school year is \$121,900 and next year it will be \$29,831 for the first quarter of the new fiscal year. Built into the budget is a new three year lease for copiers getting away from the five year lease. One of the Board of Education members had asked if it would be possible to piggyback on the Police Department which just purchased copiers. The Police Department had used the state bidding process. The Board of Education can do the same thing and it can piggyback on the state contract for copiers. They can look at this and if they don't like it then they can go out to bid. Municipalities are allowed to piggyback on

the state bid. For the computer lease, there is one more payment next year and then nothing in the 2010-2011 school year. For the previous schedule on technology, there is a shift from the lease to the outright acquisition of the computers. The Board of Education was previously given the schedule on this for a uniform level of spending over the next few years so that they can get away from the leasing and get into the actual acquisition on this.

Interim Finance Director Connolly referred to the lower portion of this memo which has two parts on it. The first part is the Early Retirement Incentive Plan. The current fiscal year is broken down with regards to how much is paid out and where the payout goes for the next three years. It stops in the third fiscal year of 2011-2012. Underneath this on the memo is "Known Regular Retirement of Sick Time Payout Obligations" that they have currently on the books. On the very bottom of the memo, it is labeled "Total All Payouts" and this shows the budgetary impact from the current fiscal year 2008-2009 and then what will happen in 2009-2010, 2010-2011 and 2011-2012, etc. He called everyone's attention to the footnotes which state that as of January 15, 2009 there are no new retirements in the teachers' bargaining unit because they haven't been notified of any. He then referred to the double asterisk which stated that no other bargaining units have deadlines for Notice of Retirement and no Notices of Retirement have been received. This doesn't mean that people can't come in and if they do then this district would have an obligation for some of the sick time payout that they may be eligible for. This memo shows the Board of Education the larger picture of budgetary impacts.

Chairman MacDonald confirmed that the buyouts on the bottom of the memo are certain. He asked Interim Finance Director Connolly if he is saying that there could be additional ones that they don't know about yet. Chairman MacDonald asked if these on the memo would be the lowest of the numbers possible. Interim Finance Director Connolly said this is correct.

Mr. Wisnioski asked given the historical performance of the Rocky Hill group or of similar groups how the numbers will look with speculation as to other individuals taking retirement given the age of the bargaining groups. He asked if someone has done this. Interim Finance Director Connolly referred to an earlier handout that had been given to the Board of Education that was labeled "Comparative Analysis Object 111 Certified Staff" and this showed how Object 111 was broken down in the budget. The "lion's share" of this is the actual salaries and Program 29 gives a breakdown of anticipated numbers of what could be paid out. He told the Board of Education members where they could find this information and he said this is budgeting for the unknown. He explained that they budgeted for what they know and there is the Program 29 account for what they don't know. Mr. Wisnioski asked what the total buyouts are seen to be for 2010-2011. Interim Finance Director Connolly said the total bottom line for 2010-2011 is \$155,772 and this is everything they know as of this date. Mr. Wisnioski asked if given at this point in prior years if there is any way to say that there is likely to be \$40,000 more or \$50,000 more. Interim Finance Director Connolly said it is hard to say because it

depends on “who decides to pull the plug and when”. One of the big factors that affects retirements are when employees start looking at the cost of health insurance and how close they are to the of age sixty-five. This is becoming one of the big driving factors. He explained more. He said they don’t know who is going to retire when. Historically these are the numbers they have been using but they could vary so they have to be looked at each year in the budget. Mr. Wisnioski referred to the total of all payouts that are listed and he said these go from a high of the current year (\$289,000) to the proposed budget (\$203,000) to next year (\$155,000), etc. This would free up a lot of the Board of Education budget for something else or maybe a reduction. He then referred to a line on the top of this same sheet going from this year (\$270,000) then it is going to drop (\$190,000) from the copiers and the computers. From the town side, there is the portable classroom which has one more year. Mr. Wisnioski said he was trying to tie all of this to the idea that they may come back to the elementary school Language Arts books and their express plan to get into a five or six year cycle for more technology. He said this seems responsible, reasonable and rational.

Interim Finance Director Connolly said in looking at budgeting and looking at year two, three, four and five that this kind of schedule allows them to do this. He said there is a substantial drop-off particularly in regards to the Early Retirement Incentive Plan. This goes away in 2012-2013. He said they would start to think of how they might stabilize their budget like the plan that was established in technology.

Superintendent Dr. Villar asked that the document with regards to his recommendations of adjustments to the budget be distributed to everyone. He thought through this that there would be some dialogue about Language Arts and a few of the programs that they had been discussing.

Mrs. Bell said she had some questions about Object Codes and she asked Superintendent Dr. Villar if he was going to cover those here. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he anticipated answering some more questions and he told Mrs. Bell that he had her two questions written down so that hopefully he could give her answers this evening.

Superintendent Dr. Villar told the Board of Education members that they should have in front of them a document that states “Proposed Board of Ed Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget Adjustments”. At the top of this is the original proposed budget for this year. A correction of \$11,970 was made and this had been spoken about the first evening of the budget workshops. This was for science supplies at the high school. The bus contract continues to be at 1%. A question had been asked at the last budget meeting with regards to CAFE membership. On this document, there is a zero for this and Superintendent Dr. Villar explained why. There is a decrease in the state grant for adult education. This is going to cost this district an additional \$2,621. There are substantial savings found in the health insurance adjustment for \$106,642. A budgeted amount had been put in of 11.5% and they learned that this has been estimated at 9%. This substantial savings is then suggested to be used to assist in the Language Arts core program implementation. He is

recommending a K-2 implementation of this which will move this district far forward in a quicker matter of time. In the long run, this will save costs on the series and this will allow for them to have the funding necessary to complete the implementation of Language Arts built into the base of the budget for next year. This could be done in two years without increasing this line item next year again. This is something for them to consider as they move forward and he recommends this. He asked Mrs. Brown to show everyone some of the materials that are being talked about for a Language Arts curriculum. Superintendent Dr. Villar thought it would be important for a quick run-through to be done of what is included in a kit. Some materials were on display in Council Chambers this evening. At this point, Mrs. Brown gave a quick rundown of this and she showed some of these materials which were a sampling of what comes with a Kindergarten program. The pilots being run in each of the schools had between ten to fifteen boxes of materials delivered to them. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they would be getting all of the materials for the teachers that are necessary to teach all of the components of Language Arts. These would be coordinated and aligned in one complete package. This allows teachers to spend more time focusing on the individual needs of the students in their lesson planning rather than on the general big picture of selecting materials they are going to use. This is a very helpful product and the teachers who are piloting this for Kindergarten are very excited about having these materials. Mrs. Brown said these core programs incorporate the teaching of reading, spelling, handwriting, comprehension and differentiated lessons which are included in the teacher's guide.

Mr. Wisnioski asked Mrs. Brown to give the public a brief explanation of what this district presently has. Mr. Wisnioski said a reading book was purchased. Superintendent Dr. Villar said this book is called Signatures. Mr. Wisnioski asked how many grades this book is for. Mrs. Brown said she was not around when this was purchased but she sees that this is the old fashioned anthology with stories in it. This was for Grade One through Grade Five. Mr. Wisnioski asked if there was one for each grade. Mrs. Brown said that was correct. Mr. Wisnioski asked how this differentiated through different skills of language. Mrs. Brown said it didn't. Mr. Wisnioski asked how the new proposed reading material deals with multiple cultures and backgrounds. Mrs. Brown said all of the literature has been specially chosen to meet multicultural needs. There are also components in the teachers' guides to help teachers teach the ELL and Special Needs population. Mr. Wisnioski asked Mrs. Brown to explain what the ELL population is. Mrs. Brown said these are English Language Learners and these are students who have English as a second language. These students need more vocabulary or picture support. Mr. Wisnioski asked Mrs. Brown to explain how this would help a Korean child who knows no English and comes to this district. Mrs. Brown said there are lesson ideas for every lesson that is taught to meet that child's need. Mr. Wisnioski asked if this is in different languages. Mrs. Brown said this is all through English using different materials. Superintendent Dr. Villar said there are very specific instructional strategies that researchers support for the teaching of students who are speakers of other languages in the classroom. It is common among the core programs to have this type of research incorporated as far as what is good instruction for an English language learner and what

is good instruction in general. On reading research and what is necessary to move students forward in Language Arts, there has been a significant change in the last fifteen years. The expectations in Connecticut are very high as far as what children can achieve in Kindergarten and up. These materials help them to meet those expectations. This is a very exciting product to be able to bring into a district and it can certainly help this district's teachers focus on working with the children.

Mr. Wisnioski asked how this will help the administrators and teachers have a common curriculum across the three elementary schools. He asked what they have now that is common for diverse learning. Superintendent Dr. Villar said one of his personal interests is curriculum in districts in general. Earlier this year, he had Mrs. Brown report the findings of some of their surveys and work in the elementary classrooms to the Board of Education. They found there is a great deal of variance among what is taught and how it is taught across the district. Superintendent Dr. Villar said his personal beliefs from what he has taken from research and what he has learned from courses that he actually instructs are that he has found it is very important to have a guaranteed curriculum in the district so that all of the students who attend first grade, for example, have a similar core experience. He explained more. They can begin to have a much more unified approach across the district that is based on the needs of the students by using a core program based on curriculum revisions that are being worked on now that align with the state standards and by working with the teachers on their instructional strategies. This way the needs of each child can be met better as they come into the classrooms. Ultimately, there will be more successful reading instruction. Mr. Wisnioski asked Superintendent Dr. Villar if what he said is that each teacher will have the same materials to teach all of the children in the same grade. Superintendent Dr. Villar said yes.

Mr. Wisnioski said these materials are paper goods, etc. and he asked what the rate of erosion will be. He asked if there is something in each subsequent budget that will have to be put in to replace and repair, etc. these materials. Superintendent Dr. Villar said even in this current year, it will be found in the accounts that are technically frozen in Textbooks (Object 641) that they are still purchasing replacement texts and this has become part of the maintenance plan. They will have to include an amount of monies in the upcoming years to replace lost or damaged materials, etc. This is currently built into the budget and they will have to continue to maintain textbook accounts.

Mr. Wisnioski asked what the level of enrollment is that they will purchase for. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he is proposing for K-2 with the recent adjustment. Mr. Wisnioski said there are a lot of different projections about how many K-2 children they are going to have. Mrs. Brown said she used a figure of two hundred and fifty students per grade level to achieve the price quotes they have. Mr. Wisnioski asked if this is the level they are at now and Mrs. Brown said it is actually higher so that they built in a little bit of a surplus right upfront.

Superintendent Dr. Villar referred back to the adjustments. He said they are always mindful of trying to keep the bottom line moving in the right direction particularly given the fiscal climate. They took a look at the professional development monies that have been found throughout the budget at each of the program levels at each of the different schools. Working with administration, they were able to pool this professional development money into a central account managed by Assistant Superintendent Hourigan. Projecting a nearly \$4,000 reduction, he still feels very comfortable that they will be able to meet the professional development needs of the district next year while remaining highly focused on district initiatives that they have been talking about and maintaining the necessary professional development for the teachers.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said they took a look at dues and fees. He asked the principals to look at the accounts that would in no way have a negative impact on students if they were not members or didn't pay a due or fee to an organization. Superintendent Dr. Villar gave an example of some music organizations that this district belongs to and if it didn't belong to them then they wouldn't be able to participate in concerts and competitions, etc. None of those dues and fees were removed. Only fees and dues were looked at that impacted adults and not children. They are making a recommendation of a reduction of \$3,919 in this.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said they looked at consortium substitutes. This is a guaranteed position for a year and they were being paid a per diem fee of \$85. There was never any difficulty in filling this position. If this position is looked to be filled at \$75 per day, which is the rate that the per diem substitutes are paid to begin with, they don't have the built in guarantee of knowing that they will be there everyday. By doing this adjustment across the district, they were able to save \$6,440. Superintendent Dr. Villar recommended this to the Board of Education and he said they have no concern about filling this position.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said an adjustment was also made to the excess cost reimbursement and he asked Interim Finance Director Connolly to speak about this because it is a complicated grant that this district receives from the State Department of Education. Interim Finance Director Connolly said in Special Education, the state reimburses Boards of Education for the high cost students. A high cost student is a student who costs 4.5 times the cost of a regular student. This district has to spend \$51,000 on a student before it starts to get reimbursed by the state. The state will then reimburse the district during the school year for the excess cost. The state has been reimbursing 100% on this formula. Interim Finance Director Connolly said when they prepared this budget approximately six weeks ago, they got concerned so they estimated a 90% reimbursement rate. The latest information is that this is at 87% now. They are recommending building \$4,975 back into the budget. On excess cost, they are anticipating a decrease in the reimbursement grant. When he reviews the financial picture for the current fiscal year this coming Thursday night, there is another part which he will probably talk about. This is an auditing change as to how the state looks at the

school bus transportation. When a bus had been used for Special Education, the full cost of the bus became eligible for excess cost reimbursement and if the bus was used in the afternoon for something else then the full bus was able to be charged off to Special Education. The auditors came in and said a look has to be taken at how many children are transported in this bus during the entire day. The ratio of the Special Education students to the total students on the entire bus has to be taken. This becomes the only eligible item. This can create a potential deficit in the current year of up to \$25,000 in excess cost reimbursement. The Special Education staff has been met with as well as with the state auditors to make sure that this district understands how they are looking at this and this is how they are looking at it. This is a change that is subtle but it will have an impact on this district and it could potentially lead to an operating deficit in the current fiscal year.

Mrs. Calciano-Coler told Interim Finance Director Connolly that when he had spoken about the Governor's budget and what impact it would have on the municipalities that he had said the ECS money would have no impact because it is the same as 2008-2009 but then there was another grant that would decrease this district's funding by 1.9%. Mrs. Calciano-Coler asked where this is reflected in this budget. Interim Finance Director Connolly said this is in the town's budget and not in the Board of Education's budget. This is money that goes directly to the town and the town counts this as general fund revenue. The ECS and the public transportation money go directly to the town. What he found interesting is the revenue the town is receiving is being minimally impacted because most of the money is in the ECS grant and this doesn't directly impact the Board of Education budget.

Mr. Wisnioski referred to what Interim Finance Director Connolly had mentioned about the change being implemented with regards to not taking credit for the bus and how they might have a deficit this operating year. He asked if they don't have surplus funds that lag from prior years. Interim Finance Director Connolly said they do. Mr. Wisnioski asked what has happened with those. Interim Finance Director Connolly said the closing balance on June 30, 2008 and the opening balance for July 1, 2008 on the excess cost account had approximately \$107,000 in it. Of this, \$57,000 has been earmarked for being used in the Special Education account next year and this had been reviewed previously with the Board of Education. He told the Board of Education members that they have a detailed worksheet with regards to this. Mr. Wisnioski asked about the balance of this. Interim Finance Director Connolly said \$50,000 is sitting in the account and this is what would be looked at to balance the budget this year if they run into a problem on the excess cost. Mr. Wisnioski asked if under all Board of Education accounting rules and the Town of Rocky Hill that this permits them to hold this in a segregated account for the different years and he asked if this is a management decision not to apply all of this, this year but to reserve some for the future year. Interim Finance Director Connolly said yes.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said he wanted to make sure that he responded to two questions that he had received earlier. He asked Interim Finance Director Connolly to do this.

Interim Finance Director Connolly said Mrs. Bell had sent an e-mail asking a couple of questions. Interim Finance Director Connolly said that he would hand out some detail sheets on this. Basically, this is with regards to why certain accounts are up what they are. Some of this is due to a person moving up because they will get a salary raise in the new fiscal year as well as a step increase. In another case, a person was hired at a higher level so that the actual salary in the current year is higher than what the budget number was. Ms. Boisvert handed this handout out to everyone.

Superintendent Dr. Villar referred to the Freshmen Girls' Basketball Team Coach. In the last budget workshop, he had presented that he had not included this in the budget. He didn't want to add any new stipend positions to this budget if possible. This had been a recommendation from the high school that he did not include this in his budget. Chairman MacDonald had raised his concern with Title IX with regards to this Superintendent Dr. Villar said. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he had follow-up conversations with the Athletic Director and he had contacted Ms. Rebecca Santiago from Shipman & Goodwin who is one of the Attorneys. She had worked at OCR (Office of Civil Rights) and this would be the office that would process any Title IX claims that would be made against Rocky Hill. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he posed to Ms. Santiago the question with regards to if there currently is a coach for the Boys' Freshmen Basketball Team and if they don't have one that is being compensated in the Girls' Freshmen Basketball Team, if this in itself represents a Title IX violation. Ms. Santiago informed Superintendent Dr. Villar that there is a concern because if this district is looked at, it is almost 50% girls and 50% boys. If the offerings are looked at, it was asked if there is a good history of this district offering equal access and it does. There is some exposure because this position was offered without pay this year and it is not being compensated. Superintendent Dr. Villar said having lived through OCR investigations that this is not something they would like to bring to Rocky Hill. The town has done such a good job of meeting these needs in the past so he felt that he would concede his error and he suggested this should be included in the budget. There is an exposure here and it doesn't make a lot of sense to him for this limited cost of \$3,134. On the stipend list, there are two positions that had been held aside. Down the road, there is an additional exposure. They agreed that they would revisit the concept of the stipends and speak with the teachers of their desires for additional stipend positions as part of the most recent negotiations with the Rocky Hill Teachers Association. Superintendent Dr. Villar told the Board of Education members that he had distributed to them their best list of programs and clubs, etc. that are being run currently and that are not necessarily being compensated for. This is in anticipation that these may be some of the issues that the Rocky Hill Teachers Association will want to speak to them about. There are over thirty-four of these programs and clubs, etc. listed and Superintendent Dr. Villar said they can't afford to add thirty-four stipend positions. There will at least be a dialogue as to how this process might move forward in this district. He said he is bringing this up because the coach for the Freshmen Girls' Basketball Team would be a stipend position as well. He conceded that his mind has been changed after revisiting the topic and after having the

conversation with Mr. McCabe and Principal Almeida. This seems prudent at this point for the limited amount of funds that it is.

Mr. Morse asked if a Boys' Freshmen Basketball Team was floored and if a Girls' Freshmen Basketball Team can be floored. Superintendent Dr. Villar said both of these teams were offered this year and someone had volunteered to coach the Girls' Freshmen Basketball Team. This is the beginning of an exposure because there is a need. This is one of the tests. He told the Board of Education members that he could forward to them the information that he received on Title IX and on OCR. There is the need for a Girls' Freshmen Basketball Team because there are a lot of girls very interested in playing and a complete team was able to be fielded. Chairman MacDonald told Mr. Morse that more boys tried out for the freshmen team than combined sophomore, junior and senior boys. Freshmen sports are very attractive for students who come into the school. From what he understands from Mr. McCabe and from other coaches, there have been freshmen girls who have selected to go to schools out of Rocky Hill because Rocky Hill did not offer that type of activity for them. Chairman MacDonald said the bottom line as he sees it is that if a coach is offered for freshmen boys then the right thing to do is to offer the same thing for a girl regardless of what Shipman & Goodwin says. A girl and a boy should receive the exact same support in this school system.

Mr. McMonigle said in the budget there is \$4,000 for unresolved stipends in the contract. This has pretty much "been eaten into" and there are now thirty-six positions that are being run on a volunteer basis. He said that he would argue the same that Chairman MacDonald did with regards to why these people should be unpaid if they are competent people working with the staff. This has to be negotiated at some point in time and now there is nothing in the budget. Something needs to be put back and it seemed to him that now there needs to be an add back. A significant number of these thirty-six positions will be required to be funded for next year. He asked Superintendent Dr. Villar how much money he is going to put in.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said he understands and he said he was going to be honest in saying that this will not happen because there is the number of thirty-six and the average stipend is \$3,000. He didn't anticipate that the Rocky Hill Teachers Association feels that this is necessary either. They have not sat down to discuss this. He thinks what needs to happen is that at a district level, they have to come to some kind of an agreement with the Rocky Hill Teachers Association as to how these things are going to be handled. Based on his experience, if someone decides to offer a course (an extracurricular opportunity) after school that is very good for children that it doesn't necessarily mean that the district is obligated for compensation. This is a fine line. The teachers do wonderful things and he told everyone if they look at the list of the different opportunities that the children are getting that it truly speaks to the dedication of those professionals. He didn't have an answer as to how this would be compensated in this fiscal climate. This is very difficult and this is one of the reasons that in negotiations they said they would sit down and talk in good faith to see what they can come up with. He said maybe

they could look at the budget to see if they want to make an adjustment to it to include the potential for additional stipends. This is something that can be done. Numbers were provided to the Board of Education in previous meetings about stipend positions and the average costs were there. He said something could be calculated and they can move in that direction if this is something that the Board of Education would like. It is a valid point.

Mr. McMonigle said there is going to have to be some sort of add back and it isn't realistic for them to think that they are going to go through the next year without some sort of add-ons in the positions because it is not fair. Superintendent Dr. Villar said this is a good point.

Mr. Wisnioski said the stipend list doesn't include elementary schools and he knew there are many elementary school teachers who participate in, organize or initiate a lot of activities. He didn't think these teachers should be excluded from this discussion however it evolves. He thinks there is a general feeling that the elementary teachers don't get the same types of stipends and rewards that occur at the middle school or the high school. Superintendent Dr. Villar told Mr. Wisnioski that a review of history supports his statement. Mr. Wisnioski said the document should also include the elementary schools and he thinks by not having this information included that it does the elementary teachers a disservice. Superintendent Dr. Villar said it speaks to the nature of the clubs and the availability of the clubs. Historically, it is for the middle school and the high school statewide where stipends are awarded for things that elementary teachers do quite a bit. He knows that the Rocky Hill Teachers Association has strong feelings about this as well and this will be brought forward.

Mr. Wisnioski said the contract for the middle school teachers and the high school teachers is that they teach five periods. The elementary teachers are lucky if they can get twenty minutes for lunch and possibly some relief if there are specials, etc. The elementary school teachers need a stronger voice. He referred to the document about the stipends and he said that should be rewritten to include the elementary school teachers.

Mrs. Calciano-Coler said she was going to echo some of the same comments. They are appreciative of the efforts that the teachers do by taking on the extracurricular activities. These show the talent and the commitment that the teachers have. She thinks a disservice is being done by not having an approved list or some type of criteria where it is decided which clubs are going to be run or not run. For the ones that the Board of Education decides it will support, those people will all get stipends. It a policy and a procedure that the Board of Education needs to develop where it can say what criteria is going to be established for which positions that will have stipends. She said the Rocky Hill Teachers Association also has a responsibility along with the Board of Education because contract negotiations are part of this also. She agreed with both Mr. Wisnioski and Mr. McMonigle. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they will take direction from the Board of

Education with regards to whether there are any recommended additions or deletions to the stipend list. He said that he has shared his recommendations at this point.

**Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Charles McMonigle, to take a recess at 7:30 p.m.**

**FAVOR: ALL  
MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman MacDonald called the budget workshop back to order at 7:45 p.m. He asked Superintendent Dr. Villar if he was done with his presentation with regards to the adjustments for the budget. Superintendent Dr. Villar believed that all outstanding questions had been answered.

Chairman MacDonald referred to the professional development decrease in the dues and fees and he wanted to make sure that they still meet the contractual obligations that they are committed to through the union. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they do.

Mrs. Calciano-Coler referred to how Mr. Morse had brought up that it was fairly lean with regards to the technology in the budget. Mrs. Calciano-Coler asked if any more thought had been given to “beefing that up a little”. She told Superintendent Dr. Villar that she knew he did a wonderful job and she knew that they wanted to come in with a certain number. Mrs. Calciano-Coler said they knew that they have been backlogged in technology for a long time and they have to make up that step. She thinks it is a good step where they are but she said it still is not where they should be which has been stated by everyone who has talked about this. Superintendent Dr. Villar said the federal grant might possibly give additional funds that can be earmarked for technology. This is an opportunity that will be monitored. He also spoke about one of the discussions that he and Mr. Ames had about the current technology situation. This was related to what they currently view as technology and limitations of their infrastructure. They are going to add two hundred new computers next year according to the plan they put forth. This is a substantial amount of new computers. Superintendent Dr. Villar gave an example of them going to a model where they would expand a number of computers as a district that they would be willing to maintain on an annual basis and put into their refresh rate. He chose a number of five computers in a classroom. The infrastructure of the buildings would have to be looked at because they weren’t built with the concept of having five computers plugged into a classroom. The location of power sources is very limited. There will be the potential of having more resources available for investments in technology. Once this district gets caught up on its refresh cycle, there are ways they can look at more modern or new devices that can move education forward. These devices won’t necessarily be dependent on the infrastructure of a building. He referred to Netbooks that are coming out this year which are laptop type of devices that are relatively inexpensive. They need to start looking at how they can incorporate these into the system of education. They will have to look at the instructional needs and how they can incorporate this technology. An online assessment system has been incorporated this

year. He explained some more. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan is presently Chairing the District Technology Committee. A five year report is being completed for the state. Another area that hasn't been expanded upon is the use of modern visual aids. Superintendent Dr. Villar said during these budget workshops it occurred to him that there should be a Doc Cam where they could show a document on a large screen. This type of technology should be looked at to be incorporated into the classrooms. He thinks it is important that they go with the two hundred computers for the next budget year because they need to get an infrastructure and this is just the core. Switches and servers are also being looked at. He said their conversation next year should also be looking at some fancier devices once they have a plan written. He didn't know if he could recommend additional expenditures and put them immediately to use at this point. He would love to have more technology but he thinks they will keep really busy getting the two hundred computers implemented and adopted to the system. The technology plan has to be completed for additional incorporated technologies into the instructional program.

Mrs. Mennella asked if the two hundred computers are targeted for the high school only or throughout the schools. Superintendent Dr. Villar said the first concern this year is at the elementary level because that is where some of the district's oldest machines are. Mrs. Mennella said she would like to see wireless laptops for the future for the high schoolers. Superintendent Dr. Villar said there are quite a few schools and he has actually worked with schools that have one to one laptop initiatives. At one point, the State of Maine was doing this. He spoke some more about the Netbooks and he said things are just coming to the market now that he thinks really have a chance of making an impact on education.

Mr. Wisnioski spoke about the district's present ability to use technology. He asked if it is the computers that the elementary school teachers have that take six, seven or eight minutes to boot up or he asked if this is because of the supply from a server somewhere. He asked what the issue is there. Superintendent Dr. Villar understood that the machines take quite awhile to get up-to-speed because they are so old.

Mr. Wisnioski asked about the two hundred computers. He wanted to know how many of these would go into the elementary schools and he wanted to know what they were exactly. Mr. Ames believed there are two hundred and four computers which will all be going into the elementary classrooms. He also mentioned that classrooms at the middle school will have newer computers. Mr. Wisnioski asked what the nature is of the old computers that it takes that long for them to boot up and he asked with the new computers if they will boot up instantly now. Mr. Ames said it will never be instant. He explained at West Hill School that there are two different models of computers: Dell and HP. The gray ones were built in 2000 and they were donated. The Dells range from 2001 to 2002. Every computer being replaced will be at least seven years old. The processors are old and the computers are limited in ram because of their age. He said everything is because of the age of the computers and nothing cost effective can be done

to make them faster. Mr. Wisnioski asked how the new computer is being defined and what will come with it. Mr. Ames said the computers will include a monitor and LCD panels, etc. Mr. Wisnioski asked if these computers will be more energy efficient. Mr. Ames said they will be in many ways. The monitors will be much bigger also because they will be 17" monitors compared to the 15" monitors in the classrooms now. Mr. Wisnioski asked how many new computers a standard classroom in the elementary schools will get. Mr. Ames said a standard classroom will get two new computers. Mr. Wisnioski confirmed that these will replace the two computers that are in the classrooms now and Mr. Ames said yes.

Mr. Wisnioski asked as part of the technology order if there are any new SmartBoards. Mr. Ames said no. He thinks the teachers are going to be overwhelmed by being able to use computers all day long rather than part of the day. In the lower grades, the teacher logs on but in third, fourth and fifth grade, the students log on. It takes a student four or five minutes to have access to the network.

Mr. Wisnioski saw some paperwork with regards to how Loctite had given this district some LCD projectors. He asked what these are. Mr. Ames said Loctite donated some four or five year old LCD projectors. These are used like a T.V. but the display is larger and it is connected to a computer. Mr. Wisnioski referred to the shrinking corporate environment and he asked if it is likely that this district might receive hardware from some company. Mr. Ames said 90% of this district's computers were donated up until three years ago. The Third World is buying them for \$30 apiece so the corporate world can sell things now rather than give them away. Spacefitters does the recycling for them and pays them for the computers. Mrs. Mennella said Integra bought them out. Mr. Wisnioski confirmed that it is not likely that this district will get 90% of its computers again from donations. Mr. Ames said he didn't see this at all. Vice Chairman Rivard said it would seem to him that this district is not looking for donated equipment because it would continue the problem they have with the obsolescence of three years. Superintendent Dr. Villar told Vice Chairman Rivard that he raised a very good point because sometimes when donated equipment is received, it is a gift that keeps on giving in expense. One of the areas they are struggling with is that the old machines break a lot. The LCD projectors are a good example of a generous corporate gift that they can make use of. He explained that they have to be somewhat selective.

Mr. Wisnioski confirmed that they are switching from a lease to a 100% purchase in each subsequent refresh year. Superintendent Dr. Villar said that is correct. Mr. Wisnioski asked what the amount in the budget is in order to purchase the two hundred and four computers. Mr. Ames said the amount is \$173,000.

Mr. Morse understands about having a master plan for technology and he said he agrees with it 100% but he still looks at paperwork he received when this whole process started that states there are ninety-five computers this district has for next year that are greater than six years old. Some of these computers are located in the middle school pods. Mr.

Morse said he wants new computers everywhere and the computers that are older than six years old bother him. Mr. Morse referred to what they are saying about the average cost being for a new computer and that it is \$600. He asked if this is off the state bid list because he said that everyone sees ads in the newspapers now where a decent computer can be purchased for \$399 or \$499. He asked if they are buying the computers in bulk, if they would go out or if they are mandated to go off of the state bid list. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they have to follow the bidding procedures and the state bid list is where they typically go. One of the other considerations when buying this volume is being sure that they buy a volume of the same machine because they have to look down the road for repair and maintenance. Corporate environments have looked at this for years. They buy a unit that is a little hardier than what the consumer buys because it is interchangeable. The state bid list will allow this district to do this too and get good pricing. The pricing keeps coming down on the machines. Mr. Morse referred to what Mrs. Brown had done with the books and he asked if vendors could be put against each other for the computers saying this district has a five year master plan for them. He asked if Dell, Gateway and NEC could put a proposal together to look out five years if this district gets that far. He is sure that corporate people do this. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they will follow the purchasing procedures they have and try to leverage whatever they can to get the most for the district. Mr. Ames said there is a four year warranty off of the state bid list with a four day turnaround. If something fails, as long as they make the call by 2:00 p.m. then the repair part will be in the next day. He thinks in the end that it will be found that just as much money is spent maintaining donated equipment as would be spent buying new equipment because of the four year warranty. Mr. Morse said it sounds like they should be on a four year replacement plan and not a five year one. Mr. Ames said the middle school won't be shortchanged. In the pods, they don't use the computers the same way they do in the classroom. He explained more about this. With the older Dells, they are planning on stripping out the 2002 vintage ones (taking all the ram out of them and putting this in the ones that are in the pods). He said there shouldn't be a significant difference between the students' experience in the pods and the new computers in the classroom.

Mrs. Calciano-Coler referred to the \$173,000 in the budget for technology and she confirmed that this is not just for covering the cost of the computers. Interim Finance Director Connolly told the Board of Education members that they have the detail in the budget books they have. Next year, the final payment of \$50,000 will be made for the lease payment and then there is the amount of \$123,600 for two hundred desktops. Mrs. Calciano-Coler didn't want the public to have the impression that \$173,000 was being spent on two hundred and four machines.

Mr. Wisnioski asked if shipping is paid under the state contract. Mr. Ames said he was sure that shipping is included but he didn't believe that it was on the quote. Mr. Wisnioski said it was 10% last year when they were doing the lease and that is a huge number. Mr. Wisnioski asked if any of this district's old computers could be sold for

\$30. Mr. Ames thought the best that could be done with them would be to get someone to haul these computers off for free.

Mrs. Mennella asked if the hard drives are going to be wiped. Mr. Ames said they don't have any data on them so they usually don't do that. He said for the Dells though that they will be keeping the hard drives in order to repair the ninety computers that are left so that they don't have to buy the spare parts.

Mr. Wisnioski said they used to buy a master license which he thought was Windows XP. He asked what is going to be done in the future with regards to operating systems, etc. when they buy the computers. Mr. Ames said this district has a Microsoft school agreement which is paid annually. This allows them to upgrade the operating system as well as it gives them access to Microsoft Office and the servers, etc. Mr. Wisnioski said when the computers are bought off of the state contract that there will be some software on them that will have to be removed, etc. Mr. Ames said that technically this is removed only because it is easier for them to image it from scratch but these computers come with XP on them. The only thing these computers come with is the operating system and they don't come with any other software. Mr. Wisnioski asked how long XP for schools will be supported for. Mr. Ames said that Microsoft has not released a date as to when they are not going to support this. Mr. Wisnioski asked if this is something that is being investigated. Mr. Ames said yes. He said this goes to the point of buying new computers and that the newer operating systems (Vista, Windows 7) require so much more hardware. The computers that had been purchased last year and the computers that will be purchased will support Vista but everything else won't and these will require an upgrade. Vice Chairman Rivard asked about the peripheral equipment with Vista (i.e. printers). Mr. Ames said it will not be a problem for the most part because most of them are networked now and it is the servers that really make the difference.

Mr. McMonigle referred to the putting of all of the \$100,000 of the health insurance savings into the literacy program. He wasn't convinced that he agreed with having all of this put in there and going with K-2. He asked what would be saved if they went with K-1 and looked for alternative uses for this. He referred to technology and he said even if they weren't going to add to the eight hundred and twenty-five computers that at the end of next year they will still have ninety-five computers that are going to be seven years old with the current replacement plan. He asked if they can look to take some of the money and bump up the replacement cycle a little by taking some of the older machines out and then next year the money that would have been dedicated to replacing old machines can be used towards whatever new technologies are identified with the programming going on now. Mr. McMonigle also said that a lot of money is put into the literacy supports which is great but he didn't see enough attention going to the math supports. He explained that for math there is no ability for the parent to help the child at home. He thinks they need to focus on supports for math. He didn't know what the number would be if second grade was taken off with regards to the literacy program and he wanted to know if some of this money could be redirected while they have the opportunity to do so

with the health insurance savings. Superintendent Dr. Villar said when the cost per grade is looked at, the cost would be approximately \$80,000 if they were to go for an implementation of K-1. First grade is the heartiest program in reading and Language Arts because first grade is where reading instruction takes off for children. Research shows that if a child doesn't come out of Grade Three as a strong reader then they will most likely struggle for the remainder of their academic career. This is one of the reasons why this district is focusing so heavily on Language Arts. There is also research that tells how to get things done (with regards to making children strong readers by Grade Three). One of the reasons a core program is so important is that it can help control the variables that were spoken about earlier in order to make sure that every child has the opportunity to get this done by Grade Three.

Superintendent Dr. Villar told everyone that they had heard Principal Watson talking about the middle school needs in a recent budget workshop. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he and Principal Watson met to discuss his need further. If they were to add to the middle school program at this point, they would recommend looking at a mathematics coach. This would have to be someone who would bring a great deal of specific expertise in mathematics instruction. This is very hard to find in the current certification venue and it is difficult to even find a mathematics teacher. Superintendent Dr. Villar feels comfortable that the core foundational work at the middle school will work. This is a revisiting of the curriculum and writing it in a very specific manner. Research evidence supports this strategy. Adherence to a quality curriculum is associated with gains in scores, particularly in mathematics. They would be talking about a FTE to support mathematics instruction at the middle level if they were to add to the budget much like the Trailblazers implementation in K-5. He mentioned how Mrs. Waterbury is doing this work now and she is doing a very good job. It would become a very difficult job to support K-5 and the middle school when they talk about changing core instructional practices of the teachers. This is a difficult situation they find themselves in. He said for his recommendation that there are a series of compromises in his budget coming forth. He is trying to always keep what is best for the whole school system as they move forth in the recommendation. He struggled with this and he said there is a lot of focus in schools on Language Arts. There is a good reason why but math is a very important area as well as science, social studies, etc. In his conversation with Principal Watson, at this point, he stands by the recommendation that they need to move forward with Language Arts and they do need to continue their initiatives in mathematics. He would want to move forward with additional support in math if he was able to but he is struggling to see how now. There could be a potential savings of maybe \$30,000 to \$40,000 that could be shifted if they reduced their implementation of Language Arts. Superintendent Dr. Villar had asked Principal Watson if paraprofessional assistance would be helpful but this is not what they are looking for because they have this level of support. They need higher specific trained individuals to move this to the next level which would be a far more costly investment. Given the scenarios at this point is why they came forward with the recommendation that they did. He told Mr. McMonigle that he acknowledges what he is

saying and that they need to keep pushing to find a way to bring additional support to math too.

Mrs. Vargas asked what Mrs. Waterbury is doing. She thought the next step was for Mrs. Waterbury to spend more time at the middle school because the elementary school teachers have had time with her. Superintendent Dr. Villar said this is an area in education that he is concerned about which is that once teachers are trained then they are given “the shot” and then everyone moves on. Mrs. Waterbury is working hard with Assistant Superintendent Hourigan on the middle school but she still needs to work with the elementary schools. A lot of new people are hired and they have to make sure that they have reinforced their system of how they teach math. These people have to be available to continually get into classrooms to assist and identify the quality instructional strategies and provide in-service for teachers when they need it. He would want to have an educational coach in Language Arts and in math at each of the elementary schools in an ideal scenario. This model is being embraced across the nation and it is being pushed in districts where schools need to make a big turnaround. A coaching model in place works and it is very powerful. He said Mrs. Waterbury is really stretched.

Mrs. Calciano-Coler said they have talked about things they would like to have and things they need to have. She said math, reading and writing are really important and these are the foundation of school. There are other things in the budget such as the Enrichment Coordinator. She thinks this is an awesome position and things that happen with this are wonderful. Her daughter has enjoyed a lot of things that have gone on at the middle school. She said to her though that this seems more like a “love to have and awesome to have” but not a really “need to have”. She asked why they wouldn’t think about shifting some of these resources to reading, writing and math. Superintendent Dr. Villar said this is a good question. He said that budgeting is an exercise in communicating the values of certain programs. The issue is that lots of people have opinions on what programs are the better ones. It becomes a complex web for them to look at to figure out what changes they can put forward in order to best move the district forward. He tried to work with the assumption that they are going to try to maintain all programs they currently have when he put together this budget recommendation. He didn’t go into this necessarily with the idea that he was going to eliminate programs in order to add to another area. His mindset has always been that if something is being done and they aren’t getting something as a result of that expenditure (i.e. improvement in scores) then it has to be looked at why something is being done. The enrichment program has done a wonderful job of reaching out and it touches a lot of children. He agreed if this district had a mathematics crisis at hand that it might be a lot easier to eliminate something like enrichments. This isn’t the case though because there are erratic but good scores in general. He thinks as resources are fewer moving forward and as things get tighter and tighter then they will be faced with these very decisions. If the Board of Education came back and said it liked the budget request but they wanted a certain percentage dropped off of it then he would have to have a conversation with the administrative staff and teaching staff to figure out where they are going to go and what

the impact would be on all of the students in Rocky Hill. He has to think about a lot of things when he thinks about impact and it is not just the test scores but also the positive experiences that children have. He tried to keep all of these things in mind in moving this budget forward. He tried to keep the current programming in place and tried to move this district forward in areas that they identified as weaker areas. Language Arts came up as an area that really needed focus in the initial review of the program. Mathematics is an area that has had good success at the elementary level and it has been focused on. Mathematics continues to have work done at the middle level and they certainly want to continue to improve this. At this point, he is recommending that no programs be eliminated and that they move forward with what they have as well as with the additions they have.

Principal Watson didn't want it to seem like they haven't moved forward with math. His plea a few budget workshops ago was to make the middle school a better place and he thinks his job is to advocate for these kinds of things. He explained that some delivery model changes have been made to some of the struggling students. He and Dr. Riggs have worked together with teachers. At every grade level, there are two co-taught classes for mathematics. There are also target math classes that are specifically backup math classes. These classes are given to students who have difficulties. He thinks they are doing a better job of breaking down the children individually with some of the new initiatives with looking at data. He said as much as he would like to have more people and more experts helping children that he is of the mind that they have made some structural changes and they have made some personnel shifts in the math department so he hopes they will see some positive results. The math teachers meet with their counterparts every Tuesday and their feeling is that they are making progress when they look at the information they have in front of them. Part of his plea was that they are spoiled by having Dr. Thibodeau in the middle school building as their Language Arts consultant. Dr. Thibodeau has set the bar high. Principal Watson said if he could have someone like Dr. Thibodeau for every subject area then he would ask for this as well. Principal Watson hopes that the math results with the cohorts do better as they move on. He is hoping that these structural changes along with continued requests for more staff in the future will be able to come to light but he understands the economics of the times now and he said they will continue to do what they do.

Mrs. Mennella said she supports the Language Arts program 100%. She wanted to mention this to Superintendent Dr. Villar and Mrs. Brown and she thanked them for their hard work.

Mr. Wisnioski asked when this district will receive the next set of standardized test outcomes. He asked when the SAT results come in. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they have the data with regards to the SAT results and they will most likely present this to the Board of Education in March. The March CMT will be the next major elementary testing and they usually get the results back on this in July. They are also incorporating the State Benchmark Assessments and in future years he would like to report to the Board of

Education this district's progress on these assessments that they will be able to do more frequently so that there is a better monitoring tool. They are trying to set up a series of benchmark assessments that will show this district how it thinks it is progressing along. These will include the state results as well. They need to have a complete system that provides a lot more data than what they have in place. They are building this in working with some other consultants and with the state so they can get more data to present which they can share with the Board of Education too.

Mr. Wisnioski asked if they aren't piloting a program with the state. He asked Superintendent Dr. Villar to tell everyone about this and what it tells about how well this district is teaching math. Mr. Wisnioski referred to the PSATs and he asked if they can learn from the results of these immediately versus some longer term look. He said a lot of the communications that he gets as a Board of Education member question why it takes so long to address a problem that has been identified. Superintendent Dr. Villar thanked Mr. Wisnioski for the opportunity for him to talk about this a little. Superintendent Dr. Villar told Mr. Wisnioski that what he is speaking to is exactly what the data team initiative is about. The issue that this district is grappling with is that the benchmark assessments have to be established in various ways. Four to six weeks of data is needed at a minimum where curriculum based assessments that are aligned with the state standardized tests can start to be given. These will start to give much more regular feedback about student learning so the teachers can adjust to meet the needs of their students right then and there when they need to look at these results and speak about their instructional strategies. This data can be monitored by the district and it can be presented to the Board of Education. Inform and PowerSchool are two of the major initiatives that the Board of Education supports that begin to give the backbone to make this happen. They are working with the state to develop some benchmark assessments but they have to develop a lot of their own. The State of Connecticut has not invested the resources necessary to develop a statewide system as a state and this is very unfortunate. The state's standards and benchmarks in CMT have driven the heart of curriculum for many years. This district is in dialogue with the Educational Foundation and hopefully they will support some assessment systems that can help offset costs for this district. Superintendent Dr. Villar said all of this is very complex and it is a retooling of a lot of systems. It is a training of all of the teachers which he and Assistant Superintendent Hourigan began at the beginning of the school year by personally going out. The principals are continuing this work in working with the teachers on a regular basis. There will be a better reporting system with more current data over time and they will have this in a much faster time because they are not going to wait for the CMTs. The CMTs come in far too long after a student has moved on to a different grade. These measure the overall system and give an idea of the right direction being moved in but they don't help the individual student at the moment of instruction. This is what needs to be done and volumes of research will tell that this is what makes a difference.

Mr. Wisnioski asked what was learned from the test taking on the computer labs. Superintendent Dr. Villar said one of the things they learned is that the state's model,

which is free, is not very robust and it has quite a few issues. This is why they are working with the Educational Foundation to see if they can move to a commercial product that has been in existence for about ten years. Mr. Wisnioski asked if the purpose of this is to give feedback on a test similar to a CMT. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan said this is based on grade level expectations. The CMT is testing material that has been taught in the previous two years and that should have been mastered. This district is looking to see if children are progressing on grade level where they are supposed to be. The good news out of the benchmark testing is that this district's labs have performed very well. There hasn't been a problem with teachers accessing the system. Sometimes the state doesn't have the material up by the date this district is expecting it or that it is promised. The material comes back as very raw data. Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Waterbury take this and they put this in a more usable format for teachers. The teachers look at this with their data teams and they make instructional plans based on where the children are and where they need to be going. This was administered in the fall and it is currently being administered now. This will be administered once more in the spring. There is a two week cycle where this district gets the data and they try to turn this around within a few days from the office back to the teachers. This has been looked at with the district data teams at the district level. They look at trends and at grade levels. This has helped Mrs. Waterbury and Mrs. Brown when they talk with teachers about where they need to go and what they need to do. Mrs. Waterbury has gone to the elementary schools to talk about the new grade level expectations that the state has put forth for math so that everyone understands how these tests are going to be structured and so that everyone understands what is being looked for.

Mr. Wisnioski asked if this will be a permanent part of their evaluation process going forward. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan said they are looking forward to getting a source of data every four to six weeks. There are other manufactured programs that could possibly provide data in a more easily understandable format. She has looked to the Educational Foundation to see if it is interested in helping this district acquire something like this. There is Blue Ribbon Testing and this does what the state is doing but this has been done for a very long time. Blue Ribbon Testing is able to produce data in a much more easily understandable fashion. Mr. Wisnioski confirmed that they are not mandated to do this. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan said this is a pilot from the state. This district wanted to try this to see if it would help move it along and give the teachers some information so they could make instructional decisions without waiting for the CMT. Superintendent Dr. Villar said this is not a mandate but they know this as good practice.

Chairman MacDonald asked if there were any other questions. There weren't any. Chairman MacDonald asked if there was anyone in the public who had any comments or would like to add any additional items. Councilor Phil Sylvestro thanked the Board of Education. He said he was going to comment tomorrow evening but did not realize that the budget workshop was going to be opened to the public again this evening. He said he is a member of the Council but he was addressing the Board of Education this evening as

a member of the public. He told everyone that since they haven't developed their policies relative to the distance learning that it would be premature of him to suggest some concerns so he said he would wait on this. He referred to technology and he mentioned the purchasing of computers as opposed to the leasing of them. He was sure they went through a logic reason and rationale in making their decision about leasing them but he asked that they consider one point. They all had raised a concern that lots of technology and lots of computers were being purchased to replace systems that are five, six, seven and eight years old. He told them to be very careful that this isn't exactly the problem they will create for themselves going forward five, six, seven and eight years because they decided to purchase computers as opposed to leasing them. He told them if they lease on a three year basis that they are "out with the old and in with the new". They would never get into the problem of getting stuck because of budgets, etc. with old technology. Everyone knows the pressures they are going to be under with regards to the budget. They will have the wish of placing \$150,000 to \$200,000 per year in terms of purchasing new systems with all of the backup technology needed for the networks, etc. Each budget year is a new year and there are challenges as well as problems. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to comment. He said that he has been out of the classroom for nine years but the teacher can't be taken out of him.

Chairman MacDonald asked if there were any other questions or comments and there weren't any.

**Moved by Rene (Skip) Rivard, seconded by Raffaella Calciano-Coler, that the Board of Education accept the Superintendent's Budget of \$28,541,391.00, which is an increase of 4.96%. (This is to be moved to the full Board of Education for its regular meeting on February 12, 2009 for it to be discussed and in which a formal vote will be taken with regards to its adoption and it being sent to the Town Council.)**

**FAVOR: Bell, Calciano-Coler, MacDonald, McMonigle, Mennella, Morse, Rivard, Vargas**

**OPPOSED: Wisnioski**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Before this motion was voted on, Mr. McMonigle asked if they were voting to send this to the full Board of Education on Thursday or if they were voting to send this to the Town Council. He said historically that budget meetings have been Finance Committee meetings that all Board of Education members participate in and then at the conclusion of these, they vote to send this to the full Board of Education. At that point in time, when they have a finished product, people can come and comment on that fully developed product. He said this item is on the agenda for Thursday evening's Board of Education meeting. He asked if the recommendation is to move this to Thursday's agenda and to prepare people for discussion.

Chairman MacDonald said that was right. This evening was not a Finance Committee meeting and the motion is to move this to the Board of Education (for Thursday evening) and a formal vote will be taken then. Mr. McMonigle confirmed if this will be voted on again on Thursday. Chairman MacDonald said yes and Mr. McMonigle said that was fine.

Mrs. Vargas asked if they are voting now to vote again. Mrs. Calciano-Coler said they are voting to bring this forward to the Board of Education's agenda (for Thursday) to the full Board of Education. Chairman MacDonald mentioned the amount of \$28,541,391.00. Mrs. Vargas said that she could see if they were in a subcommittee and then they were bringing this to the full Board of Education. Chairman MacDonald said he was ready now to vote in favor of this and they could skip this on Thursday because he didn't think there would be a significant change. He said if there is an opportunity that some of the Board of Education members want to have or if there is the opportunity to solicit more input from the public then he is in favor of that. He said they are trying to get as much information out there. He said the motion for this is to bring this to the Board of Education for Thursday for formal adoption to have it sent to the Town Council and he said this is fine with him.

Chairman MacDonald asked if there was any other discussion and there wasn't.

At this point, this motion was voted on.

**Moved by Raffaella Calciano-Coler, seconded by Frank Morse, to adjourn the budget workshop at 8:42 p.m.**

**FAVOR: ALL  
MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Anne Booth  
Recording Secretary

Accepted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_