

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education held a special work session on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 5:30 PM in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Board members present: Mrs. Caramanello (remote), Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. DelVecchio, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella and Mr. Roraback.

Board members absent: Ms. Betty, Mr. Mennone and Mr. Stone

Administration present: Dr. Schuch, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Keane, Director of Student Services and Special Education, Mr. Brough, Human Resources Specialist, Mrs. Quarato, Associate Director of Learning, Innovation and Development, Mrs. Siegel, Associate Director of Learning, Innovation and Accountability, and Mrs. Stone, Principal of Coginchaug Regional High School.

Mrs. Dahlheimer called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Agenda**

*Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to approve the agenda, as presented.*

*In favor of approving the agenda, as presented: Mrs. Caramanello, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. DelVecchio, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella and Mr. Roraback. Motion carried unanimously.*

**Public Comment - at the beginning of the meeting public comment should refer to items on the agenda**

**A. In-person public comment**

None.

**B. Remote public comment**

None.

**2024-2025 Budget Discussion**

Mrs. Neubig reviewed that there was a reduction in one account and an increase in two others, all for athletics. There was no change in the budget. The debt service strategy was agreed to and money was reallocated in capital reserve which was not needed for the turf and went to unanticipated repairs and maintenance. With the debt service adjustment, the budget went from a 4.48 percent gross increase and a 3.82 percent net increase to a 3.61 percent gross increase and a 2.91 percent net increase. Mrs. Neubig also reported that they did get the rates for the health insurance which came in at 2 percent, however the dental is higher than was budgeted so she did not recommend any change.

Mrs. Dahlheimer asked if a motion was needed to move the money from the debt service. Mrs. Neubig didn't feel that it was necessary as she is not actually moving anything, rather paying the portion of the

debt service out of the capital reserve account where the funds currently are. Dr. Schuch felt that the minutes from the last meeting should reflect the board's consensus on that.

*Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Dahlheimer, to add a .6 FTE back into the Math department at Coginchaug.*

Mr. Moore felt that the kids who suffered the most with COVID are now in high school and they took a big hit in math. He felt that they need more support at the high school to compensate for that and bring them back to where their performance should be. He felt that the STEM programs have been limited. There are proposed technical pathways that also require higher levels of math. He would not want to overload the teachers with that. He felt that it was time to put the .6 back in that was taken out a year ago.

Mrs. Dahlheimer asked if adding that back in will keep the budget increase under 3 percent. Mrs. Neubig explained that it depends at what level the teacher is hired at, but felt that if she budgeted at the lower level, she computed it to be a 3.68 percent gross increase and a 2.99 percent net increase. Mrs. Dahlheimer added that they have received a lot of support from parents and the community that this was an area to increase. She felt that it would be a good idea as long as they can keep the budget increase under 3 percent. Mr. Moore added that it didn't necessarily have to be a teacher, but could be an interventionist or other position.

*In favor of approving adding a .6 FTE back into the Math department at Coginchaug: Mrs. Caramanello, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. DelVecchio, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella and Mr. Roraback. Motion carried unanimously.*

There was no further discussion on the 2024-2025 budget.

*Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Dahlheimer, to adopt the 2024-2025 budget, as proposed, with the aforementioned amendment.*

*In favor of adopting the 2024-2025 budget, as proposed, with the aforementioned amendment: Mrs. Caramanello, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. DelVecchio, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella and Mr. Roraback. Motion carried unanimously.*

*Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Dr. Darcy, to bring the 2024-2025 budget to public hearing, as proposed, with the aforementioned amendment, to include the exact numbers.*

*In favor of bringing the 2024-2025 budget to public hearing, as proposed, with the aforementioned amendment, to include the exact numbers: Mrs. Caramanello, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. DelVecchio, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella and Mr. Roraback. Motion carried unanimously.*

## **Adjournment**

*Dr. Darcy made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Dahlheimer, to adjourn the special work session of the Board of Education.*

*In favor of adjourning the special work session of the Board of Education: Mrs. Caramanello, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. DelVecchio, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Stone. Motion carried.*

Meeting was adjourned at 5:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz  
Alwaz First