



CALL TO ORDER

5:30 PM

ROLL CALL

Present – Trustees Baskett, Friedman (Treasurer), Mexicotte (President), Nelson (Secretary), Patalan (Vice President)

Absent – Trustee Hollier

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Steve Norton spoke about keeping our commitment to programs. Cuts should not be equal across the board. Investing in early childhood education and programs that support all children should be a primary objective when looking at reducing the budget.

Kim Callajan Lijana spoke about fundraising ideas to increase revenues; designating “angels” who go out into the community to solicit ongoing financial support, who then solicit others.

STUDY SESSION ITEM:

Budget Planning Process

Administration presented a Powerpoint that outlined how revenues are broken down by fund, the impending decreases in funding, and the potential impact on our budget. Also included were some initial budget reduction ideas. Information sessions are being held now with staff, and in January for the broader community.

Open discussion between the trustees, administration and the audience occurred throughout the meeting.

It was explained the expenditures increase year to year due to inflation, retirement costs, healthcare costs, rises in utility costs, and contractual obligations. However, funding from the state has steadily decreased over the years. The district has cut the budget year after year in order to remain in line with decreasing revenues.

The district’s use of the federal stimulus money (ARRA), was tightly restricted by the state and will probably only last through this year due to the state’s financial crisis.

Vice President Patalan indicated the need to increase state revenues which could include a service tax. She asked the community to be creative to come up with other ways we could increase funding to education.

Even though the district has not received definite word on all the reductions, we must act now to address the potential deficits that severely reduced funding will create in order to adhere to contractual lead-time requirements.

It was noted that once we start offering fewer services, we face losing students.

The Board needs to direct administration on using fund equity to address the deficit.

The Board should look at policies regarding equal funding among schools with regard to fundraising.

Audience member, John Mayleben (Whitmore Lake Board member), indicated that their district successfully passed a recreation millage that funds the maintenance of their pools and ball fields.

Trustees would like to be briefed before the community forums. The January 6 meeting could be used for this purpose.

Dr. Roberts noted that second semester would be the soonest cuts would be made.

Trustee Friedman offered a plan of action for collecting data from the community forums:

“War Room” Infrastructure

- Separate, dedicated room
- Database on dedicated computer
- Boards to post information on

Input Channel	Organize & Evaluate	Planning
1. Maximize inputs 2. Screening 3. Sorting into database	1. Prioritize 2. Create alternative solutions 3. Score and assign cost savings 4. Discuss with affected parties	1. Construct plan 2. Address action points
<i>Marketing & Clerical</i>	<i>Finance / Instruction / Specialists</i>	<i>Cabinet</i>

Would like to give community various ways to offer suggestions, perhaps through the website.

ADJOURNMENT

8:20 pm