

Board of Finance  
Special Meeting  
Tuesday February 23, 2010

Present: D. Colavecchio (Chairman), G. Seabourne, F. Treglia, M. Galbraith, S. Turner, K. Mosimann O'Sullivan.

Also present: E.Mone, First Selectman; Lynda Mitchell, Superintendent of Thomaston Public Schools; Sue Laone, Finance Director, Thomaston Public Schools.

Also present: members of the Thomaston Board of Education, public, press.

**1. Call to Order**

D. Colavecchio called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance

**3. Board of Education**

Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Laone presented the proposed Board of Education 2010-2011 focusing first on the cost of Special Education which reflects a 13.23% increase in the proposed budget.

Ms. Mitchell described the process of identification, development of an education plan for a student with special needs, and the personnel involved in developing the plan. She also described the range of facilities to which students are outplaced, including group homes.

The proposed Regular Education budget is \$11,556,747 which represents a 3.69% increase over the current budget of \$411,463. The Special Education Budget is \$2,029,252 which represents a 13.23% increase of \$237,034. The total proposed budget is \$13,585,999 which represents a 5.01% increase of \$648,497.

**4. Member Comment**

G. Seabourne thanked the Board of Education for separating out the Special Education costs from the Regular Education costs noting that it put the costs of education in perspective.

**5. Public Comment**

1. T. Durso: How do Special Education costs come down?

Ms. Mitchell: Because students come back to the Town schools.

Question: Why are they outplaced?

Ms. Mitchell: This is a decision of the courts, Dept of Children and Families and others.

2. K. Yost: This is what the Board of Education is proposing, not what it is getting; is that right?

D. Colavecchio: This is the beginning of the budget process.

**6. Adjournment**

On a motion by S. Turner, seconded by K. Mosimann O'Sullivan, the meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

M. Galbraith, Secretary Thomaston Board of Finance

