

Town of Paxton Board of Selectmen

Meeting with Dr. Pandiscio, WRSD Superintendent

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Members Present: Fred Goodrich, Chair, Michael Quinlivan, Vice Chair
John F. Malone, Clerk

Charles Blanchard, Town Administrator

Attendees: See list

- Chairman (FG) opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.
- (FG) stated that they were meeting to get an understanding as to where the school was with the budget, that they had not finalized their budget despite several cuts.
- Dr. Pandiscio provided spreadsheets of Projected Revenues and Expenditures with three scenarios of additional revenues & federal stimulus of \$3,000,000, \$3,500,000 & 4,000,000, to a "Base" budget. He did not expect to submit this budget to the committee.
- Dr. Pandiscio outlined some big reductions that had been made to the budget for maintenance, tuition to other schools and reserve for extraordinary expenditures, with increases for personnel, insurance, salaries, special education and transport.

WRSD FY10 Projected Assessment

- Base budget with \$3,000,000 additional revenue, amounts to an increase of 2.36% in the total assessment.
- Base budget with \$3,500,000 additional revenue, amounts to an increase of 1.25% in the total assessment.
- Base budget with \$4,000,000 additional revenue, amounts to an increase of .14% in the total assessment.

Dr. Pandiscio's Goal

- Dr. Pandiscio stated goal to get a \$4,000,000 reduction to the assessment, this would be achieved by receiving the federal stimulus and through successful collective bargaining with the teachers.

- The first budget would have all teachers in place – no lay-off as they have only just got the teachers that were laid off 4 years ago back on the books, he believed voters should make the decision.
- Dr. Pandiscio would hope to have budget within the next two weeks or a letter explaining timeline or need for a further meeting.
- (FG) asked what confidence they had in the Federal Funding.
- Dr. Pandiscio responded that they would receive it, it was just the fear of the regulations for spending.
- (JM) asked whether salaries had been frozen.
- Dr. Pandiscio responded that salaries had not been considered, but would be borne on the back of personnel without contracts or unions.
- (JM) asked whether the same is given to non-union as union.
- Dr. Pandiscio responded that they take back from every group.
- When asked Dr. Pandiscio stated that insurance benefit was 75%/25%.
- (MQ) Town's looking at a \$110,000 deficit, and asked if the third scenario was doable.
- Dr. Pandiscio responded that he could possibly get to \$3,5000,000 with minimum concessions from teachers.
- Richard Fenton, Finance Committee asked whether the E&D Fund was being used.
- Dr. Pandiscio responded no not at this stage, have \$860,000 in the fund, will increase athletic fees. Bids on oil were also 50% down.
- (JM) asked whether anyone on receiving the BOS letter for a zero RASA, looked at the numbers that this would produce.
- Dr. Pandiscio responded that it was before they received the stimulus information.
- Dr. Pandiscio handed out a sheet from the website of the FY08 expenditure per pupil comparison, based upon grade structure, district wealth and enrollment. He stated that Baypath's assessment to the Town over the last three years has increased more than Wachusett's. He stated that "you can't afford what I need you to pay and I can't afford what you want to pay"
- (CB) stated that although he appreciated and understood Dr. Pandiscio position, with the \$4,000,000 reductions, the Town would need to reduce hours not replace staff and give no

increases including the union. Even with this the people of Paxton will see a difference with Police cover and road plowing.

- (FG) stated that due to the amount of RASA it has not allowed the Town to money into stabilization and have any extra in department budgets, amounts to 52% of our budget. So we hope that you will be successful in bringing down the cost.
- (JM) asked that if anything changes positively or negatively that they would let them know and would expect a final number the middle of April.

Public Session

- Deirdre Malone, Treasurer asked what insurance carriers the school had.
- Dr. Pandiscio responded, Blue Cross, HMO Blue, Fallon Select, Fallon Direct, Medex, Fallon Senior and PPO reimbursed on middle level 75%.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm (FG) second (JM) – All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Riches
Administrative Assistant