

Danville School Board
Special Meeting
Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 6:00pm
Danville School Library & Zoom Teleconference
[Video Recording Available](#)

School Directors Present: Clayton Cargill, Tim Sanborn, Melissa Conly, Dave Towle, Molly Gleason

School Administrators Present: Superintendent Mark Tucker (via Zoom), Elementary Principal Sarah Welch, Secondary Principal Larry Fliegelman, Danville Works Director Dave Schilling

Public: No public present.

1. Call to Order: Clayton called the meeting to order at 5:15pm. Introductions were made around the room and over Zoom.

2. Additions/Changes to the Agenda - *(Proposed additions or deletions/Possible agreement)*

Clayton recommended adding a discussion on the content of his letter for the Town Report.

MOTION: Melissa moved to add a discussion on the content of the letter for the Town Report, Molly seconded, all in favor.

3. Board Business

- Letter for the Town Report:

Clayton shared that he is working on the letter for the Town Report and is looking for feedback from the board on content. There was discussion on the increase in special education costs for FY'24. Mark shared that the increases in special education include a \$12k/year lease for a wheel-chair equipped van to transport a student to and from school, a reduction in Danville's special education student count, and Danville's share of the census block funding. Act 173 restructured special education funding from a reimbursement model to a flat grant which is then distributed to districts in the supervisory union based on the percent of children on IEPs. Danville's special education child count is less in FY '24, but due to fixed costs with staffing, the costs can't fluctuate year-to-year.

Clayton will send a draft of the letter to board members to review content.

DANVILLE SCHOOL BOARD: APPROVED MINUTES - JANUARY 10, 2023

- FY'24 Budget (*Presentation/Discussion/Possible Approval*)

Discussion on what is controllable and uncontrollable in the budget, and the difficult decisions around making cuts when services, programs and/or capital improvements are needed; oftentimes for schools it comes down to letting staff go, and cutting extracurriculars like music, as those are the only areas where boards and local communities have control. In the FY'24 budget, uncontrollable costs such as healthcare premiums, special education and costs related to the building (utilities “property services” and materials) make up about 33% of the FY'24 budget, and with the costs related to teaching and instruction (regular education instruction, instructional support, and principals), it brings it up to about 78% of the total budget. **These were estimates brought up in discussion by the board and are not official estimates from the administration.*

Discussion on the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) and the impact of the 6% increase on the budget. Mark shared that only a few towns in VT that had appraisals in 2022 saw decreases due to the CLA.

Discussion on grant-funded positions and grant-funded positions that are no longer funded. Larry clarified that there are no new grants coming in at this time. Some will continue, such as title funds (federal), and there is still some ESSER funding. Mark added that the state’s weighting study could positively impact the districts in the supervisory union in FY '25, and with the other unknown factors, it is difficult to say what the budget will look like next year.

Question on what “BI” stands for in the increases section of Mike’s budget report. Mark will check with Mike C.

MOTION: Tim moved to approve a budget of \$7,609,397 for FY'24 to be put to the voters, Melissa seconded, all in favor.

- Warning for Town Meeting: Mark reviewed the warning to be posted and presented to voters. Changes need to be made, and it may be available for review at the board committee meeting on January 11, 2023.

4. Public Comment: None

5. Adjourn: MOTION: Melissa moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:47pm, Dave T. seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Molly Gleason, Clerk, on January 12, 2023.