

**East Greenwich School Committee  
Minutes of the Budget Workshop  
Tuesday, January 29, 2015  
Archie R. Cole Middle School Library  
100 Cedar Avenue  
East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**6:30 p.m. Budget Workshop**

**I. Call to Order**

**Ms. Mark called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. School Committee members in attendance were: Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair (arrived at 6:38 p.m.); Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. Clark Smith; Mr. Michael Fain, and Dr. Yan Sun. Mr. David Osborne was absent. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Gail Wilcox, Director of Administration; and Mr. Robert Wilmarth, Director of Facilities were also present.**

**II. Budget Workshop: Special Education and Facilities**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 5-0 to table the special education workshop.**

**Mr. Wilmarth presented the FY2016 facilities budget, which details a proposed increase of 4.05%. The district is projecting increased costs in health (15%)and dental (4.5%). Mrs. Wilcox noted preliminary numbers are between 12.5-17.5% for health insurance.**

**The pension rate is noted as a 23% decrease. Most of the overtime costs are attributed to building rental. Mr. Wilmarth explained the**

offset of rental fees to overtime costs. The average revenue for rentals for the past two years is approximately \$40,000. The revenue from rentals is not included, but would result in a 2.83% total budget increase for FY2016 (instead of 4.05%).

Building improvement was discussed in detail. Mrs. Winters and Dr. Gifford provided historical details regarding the capital improvement fund. A “deferred improvement” list was provided to the Committee.

Mr. Wilmarth explained the offset of building capital improvements to fund the energy improvement plan. There was a discussion regarding improvements that can be made using bond money. Mr. Winakur from SBS can provide details on the balance of the bond and the priority list of infrastructure improvements.

\$30,000 is budgeted to replace the electrician’s van, which is about 10-12 years old and has recently had the transmission replaced. The Committee requested the mileage of the van. Mr. Wilmarth discussed the increased cost of supplies noting the district makes purchases based on clean/green methods to make the schools healthier. This new method of cleaning began when Cole was built. Ms. Mark would like Mr. Wilmarth to provide a future update for the community regarding clean/green methods.

A 10% increase in property/liability insurance is projected. Mrs. Wilcox will contact The Trust to ask whether the increase is based on previous claims. The increase in technology services is to place

**electronic billboards in all schools. The billboards are a condition of a grant.**

**Dr. Gifford asked Mr. Wilmarth to provide a list of “possible cuts.” All budget owners will be asked to do the same. Dr. Gifford would like the district office added to the list of improvements for a future modest renovation.**

### **III. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mr. Fain, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn at 7:46 p.m.**

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO**

**SECRETARY**