

May 28, 2020

A special meeting of the Westfield School Committee was held on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 6:00 pm remotely (due to COVID-19 crisis). Members present by roll call were: Ramon Diaz, Diane Mayhew, Bo Sullivan, Cindy Sullivan, Heather Sullivan, Tim O'Connor and Chairman Humason.

At 6:03 pm Chairman Humason called the meeting to order.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. School Committee Policy File: BDDH Public Participation at School Committee meetings
3. Public participation, excluding personnel: (submitted via email)

Cindy Sullivan read the following email:

Rachel Bullock, Bailey Drive

I am a parent of two children who attend the WPS. I am emailing to ask to be a part of the public participation regarding the school budget cuts.

The Mayor is requesting additional cuts of over 4 million dollars to the proposed budget of April 6. This is an insane request to ask of the committee and school representatives to make. This drastic of a cut will be detrimental to the schools, staff, and kids. In a time right now that has negatively affected all students mentally, socially, and educationally then to take even more away from them is undeniably wrong. With the not knowing of even how next school will begin - more money will be needed not less. If the schools are to follow CDC guidelines to keep staff and students safe, more money will be needed.

I get that we are in unprecedented times with the economy but the city has free cash accounts that can be used to help with budgets. A 4 million dollar cut is just too much. There needs to be assurances from the Mayor and City Council that the money that will eventually come in from the state to help with city budgets - that the school will be a top priority to refund. Typically the City Council of Westfield is for cutting the school budget every year. If this sacrifice is to be made, we need assurances and commitments from the Mayor and City Councilors to helping students who have been sacrificed already of their education.

We need you, School Committee members, to step up and advocate more and loudly to city and state politicians that money is needed for schools. There is no delicate way of cutting over 4 million dollars from this budget. There will be dire consequences doing this.

This school administration, under the current Superintendent, each year has presented a thoughtful, straightforward, fugal and transparent budget. It is shameful and a slap in the face such cut is asked of him. These are difficult times for all and we need everyone to pitch in and help but whether people like it or not kids across this land have been impacted the most and need to be taken care of by local, state and federal agencies.

Mayor and School Committee Members, please take in account what these kids have gone through and protect this budget to protect them.

4. Review of the 2020-2021 Budget Proposal

Superintendent Czaporowski reviewed the proposed revised FY2020-2021 budget and the recommended reductions. The reductions included 47 positions.

Committee members commented and shared their concerns regarding the revised budget and the amount of funding being cut from the April 6 proposed budget.

No action was taken on the proposed budget. The committee will meet again.

At 7:49 pm Ramon Diaz moved, Cindy Sullivan seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Motion passes.

Mr. Stefan Czaporowski, Superintendent of Schools
Clerk – Westfield School Committee

A true copy, Attest:

Cindy Sullivan, Secretary
Westfield School Committee

CS/cm