



## FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 12, 2014

Chatfield-LoPresti School – Library Media Center

6:30 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Kristen Harmeling, Committee Chairman

Jennifer Magri

Yashu Putorti

Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk

Others Present:

Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools

Nancy Snopkowski, Associate Superintendent

Rick Belden, Assistant Superintendent, Finance & Operations

David Olechna, Chatfield-LoPresti Principal

Leslie Sojka, Chatfield-LoPresti Assistant Principal

Ben Kaufmann, Computer Technician

Dawn Adams

Maria Brancato Reiter

Tara Petrino

Dawn Kinsella

Cindy Dion

Gina Boxleitner

Elena Miller

Adrienne Tomlinson

Leslie Sojka

Vicki Babineau

Anthony Bunosso

Nelia Faulkner

Kate Sabatini

Denyse Miller

Cristina Vetro

Marjorie Senior

Stefanie Golebieski

Elizabeth White

Bonnie Sherman

Missy Orosz

### I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Mr. Bunosso called the CLS PTA meeting to order and Ms. Harmeling called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 p.m.

### II. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

#### A. Information

##### 1. 2014-2015 Board of Education Budget Presentation

Ms. Harmeling thanked the CLS PTA for letting the Finance Committee present the 2014-15 budget to them. She introduced the Finance Committee members and the Administration who were in attendance. She reviewed the attached budget presentation.

### III. OPEN DISCUSSION

#### A. Open Discussion on Issues Pertaining to School Budget

When asked to explain the Tuition line item in the budget, Ms. Harmeling said the majority of this line item is for special needs students who are unable to get the services they need within our district. She explained there is a small amount that is tuition for students attending magnet schools. She explained by that we are mandated by State law to pay the tuition for any Seymour student who attends a magnet school outside of the Magnet schools we are participating with. Mr. Belden indicated of the \$1,000,000 approximately \$700,000 is for students with special needs and the balance of \$300,000 is for Six to Six Magnet School, ECA, Sound School, and Nonnewaug. We try very hard to provide the needed services for our special needs students and have had success with starting programs and bringing students back to the district. Special Education is an area in the budget that is very hard to predict the costs because of unplanned costs. A family with a child with special needs can move into Seymour and we must provide the services. One person asked if the position costs shown included salary or salary + benefits and Mrs. Harmeling said it depends on the situation, it can be shown both ways. Another person asked if the Finance Committee can do this presentation at the Senior Center on Bingo Day which is Tuesday at 12:00. She felt it was important for them to understand the budget. Ms. Harmeling said we are willing to do the presentation anywhere but reminded parents that we would not have to sway the senior citizens if our parents would get out and vote. She asked what the ratio of seniors vs. parents was. Mr. Bunosso said as of the last census, 14.4% of Seymour residents were over 65 and 23.9% under 18. Mr. Putorti talked about the referendum explaining the average number of "no" votes is 900. We need to get at least 901 "yes" votes to move this budget forward. He informed the group that you do not need to be a registered voter to vote in the budget referendum; you only need to owe \$1000 worth of property. They have a list of all property owners and all you need to do is show your ID to vote. He said everyone can vote and encourages parents to bring their spouses. A parent asked if we register our high school students to vote. Mrs. Syriac confirmed that the registrar of voters do this every year. Mr. Putorti also information the group that they will no longer be receiving calls from the Superintendent reminding them to vote since a law was passed last year prohibiting this. The town can still send a Code Red message as long as it is sent to all residents of Seymour. Ms. Harmeling talked about how hard our Administration works to apply for grants and we are successful in receiving grant money quite often. A member of the group said she felt this would be good information to share with the public. She felt they need to know that we fund many programs with grant money not money from the budget.

### IV. ADJOURNMENT

(Mr. Putorti/sec., Ms. Magri) to adjourn the meeting

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk