



FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 13, 2014
Bungay School
7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kristen Harmeling, Chairman
Jennifer Magri
Yashu Putorti

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Christine Syriac, Superintendent
Nancy Snopkowski, Associate Superintendent
Rick Belden, Assistant Superintendent
Kristopher Boyle, Assistant Principal BS
Eric Laurentus, IT
Pat Boyle, Board Clerk
Aimee Cronin
Cindy Dion
Tonya Dzwonkowski
Kim Farmer
Maria Keeler
Sherry Lia
Fran and Gary Marsala
Andrea Ortega
Donna Tomas
Stephanie Tomasheski
Diane Valdes
David Vergati
Katie Riordan

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Ms. Diane Valdes called the Bungay PTA meeting to order and Ms. Harmeling called the Finance Committee meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m.

B.

II. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

A. Information

1. Mrs. Harmeling stated that the Board of Education was meeting with the parent groups in town to present their budget in a more intimate setting. She hoped that this would encourage parents to ask any questions that they needed before voting. She introduced the members of the Board of Education Finance Committee and the Administrators in attendance. She then presented the attached 2014-2015 Board of Education Budget.

III. OPEN DISCUSSION

A. Diane Valdes wanted to know if the BOE thought that the Board of Finance would reduce the requested budget before it went to referendum. Mr. Putorti responded that the Board of Finance had been very supportive the last 2 years but wasn't certain about it this year. Parents were also reminded that by law Mrs. Syriac could no longer send out e-mails or make phone calls encouraging parents to vote.

Cindy Dion asked if parents could still send out reminders to voters. Mrs. Harmeling said not only could they do that but that they could advocate for the budget. Mr. Putorti said that the rallying cry this year was "901". After reviewing the voting patterns for the last few years it appears that the first referendum has 900 no votes and 700 yes votes. The second referendum less no votes and more yes votes and by the third referendum it usually passes. So if we can get 901 voters to vote yes in the first referendum then the budget would pass the first time. He also reminded parents that they do not need to be a registered voter to vote, they just need to own property valued at \$1000.00. He asked that parents please pass that information on to friends and neighbors. Mrs. Harmeling also said that a lot of families have two adults in the household but only one voted. She also asked people who were planning on voting "no" to come and talk to the Board of Education and tell them why they were voting no and to share where they felt the money should be spent. Mr. David Vergati asked about the health care buyout, he felt that should be renegotiated. Mr. Belden explained that the Board of Education grandfathered this out of contracts. Mr. Belden stated that the some retirement benefits are being grandfathered out as well. Cindy Dion asked if the Board of Finance would be setting the referendum date on Monday. Mr. Belden felt that the Board of Finance would be wrapping up the final budget by the first week in April and the referendum would probably be the last week of April. Mrs. Harmeling said that unlike other budgets the Board of Finance can't cut the Board of Education budget by line item and there are only so many places that can be cut due to state mandates. Mr. Putorti said an example of this is class sizes, by contract we can't exceed 30 students without a grievance being filed by the teachers union. Parents were reminded that the Board of Finance is meeting Monday, March 17, 2014 at town hall. They were asked to go to the meeting and show their support for the requested budget.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Mr. Putorti/sec., Mrs. Magri) to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Harmeling, Mrs. Magri, Mr. Putorti

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by:
Pat Boyle