

SEYMOUR  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
**Special Meeting**  
Minutes  
January 8, 2009  
Central Office  
7:00 p.m.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE: Bruce Baker, Jason Buchsbaum, James Garofolo, Jeanne Loda, Judy Flood, Rose Marie Yitts, Fred Stanek, Judy Flood, Rhonda Geffert, Jim Ward, MaryAnne Mascolo, Christine Syriac, Rick Belden

OTHERS PRESENT: Bernadette Hamad, Ernie DiStasi, Lauren Garrison, Melvin Mason, Tricia Danka

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

MaryAnne Mascolo began the discussion on the budget by explaining that the Board of Education has been planning the budget since October. We hold to core values and have a five year plan. She pointed out that there was only one year where we received a status quo budget and explained that the line items are at bare bones and we have had to eliminate staff and programs. She went on to explain that as soon as the Board of Education knew Oxford was leaving, the BOE and the administration developed a plan and have not replaced staff as they left our employ. She pointed out that she put in a zero budget and spoke to Trish Danka and Bob Koskelowski. If we have to go lower, there is no where to go.

Trish Danka thanked the Board of Education for inviting her to attend this meeting. She explained that Oxford leaving represents a 1.1 million revenue loss and this could not be happening at a worse time. She told MaryAnne Mascolo that she would support a 0% budget but it still means a significant mil rate increase. She felt the town will not support it and will vote it down.

Bruce Baker pointed out that the Board of Education has prepared every year and questioned what has the town done to prepare?

Jim Garofolo felt it is a "we vs. them" at this time of the year. Feels it is an adversarial relationship. The Board of Finance has fiscal responsibilities and the Board of Education has education responsibilities.

Trish Danka has had many conversations with Bob Koskelowski and feels they differ in their views. Her support and being honest go hand in hand. It's the Board of Education's job to educate the community. Trish indicated she would not support further cuts.

Discussion ensued regarding the Oxford exit and the loss of 1.1 million in town revenue.

MaryAnne Mascolo walked through the Board of Education budget and explained that the process was started by looking at the numbers at Seymour High School to reduce staff due to the Oxford exit. There was discussion about the Athletic Director's position and several ideas were presented as ways to lower the budget.

The next meeting was set for January 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

**MOTION:** (Rose Marie Yitts/Judy Flood) to adjourn the meeting

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Bruce Baker, Jason Buchsbaum, James Garofolo, Jeanne Loda,  
Judy Flood, Rose Marie Yitts, Fred Stanek, Judy Flood,  
Rhonda Geffert, Jim Ward

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Christine Syriac