

## **Town of Plymouth**

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## **Board of Finance**

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1. Call Meeting to Order – Chairman Ralph Zovich called the Regular Meeting of the **Town of Plymouth Board of Finance** to order on **Thursday, March 22, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Community Room, Plymouth Town Hall. Members in attendance: Pat Budnick, Vicky Carey, Peter Cook, Mike Drozdick, Ralph Zovich. Also present: Robin Gudczauskas, Recording Secretary. Excused absent: Dan Murray.  
Members of the Plymouth Board of Education: Dr. Distasio, Superintendent; Michael Santogatta, Business Manager; Robert Parenti, Director of Pupil Services; Peter Lovely, Director of Curriculum; Rich Trudeau, Director of Technology; Patrick Perugino, Chairman of the Board of Education who stated there is not a quorum present of their Board.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Review and Discuss Proposed General Fund Budget for FY 2012-2013 with Board of Education – Dr. Distasio reviewed slide presentation noting each year budget goals to maintain current program; increase kindergarten to full day, keep zero increase if possible. Mission statement remains the same, core values same; district goals reviewed highlighting Goal 6, full day kindergarten, reviewed. Enrollments reviewed noting drop and all districts are seeing decline stating a number of students are going to magnet, tech and vo-tech schools as well as outplacements and feels the number will change with all day kindergarten. Academic program reviewed noting continuing rise in scores. Budget Detail reviewed stating equaling a zero percent increase at \$22,996,115. Budget trends reviewed; budget comparison between salaries, benefits, instructional cost, operation cost; out of district cost; extracurricular; other system wide costs. Mr. Perugino noted there is a quorum present with arrival of a new board member. Chairman Zovich thanked Dr. Distasio for the presentation stating there will first be Finance Board members comments/questions and then public comments. Chairman Zovich (a) overall no increase in proposed budget and increases within functions reviewing breakdown and some increases beyond control such as \$137,000 in self funded health insurance; Mike Santogatta reviewed self insurance, reserve, stop loss. (b) question per student costs. Mike Santogatta stated students to vo-ag and vo-tech schools and system wide costs \$174,000 to \$271,000 representing 12 students at \$7900 per student. In the coming budget 8 students from 8<sup>th</sup> grade are going to Wamogo; a few to magnet school in Meriden; several to Hartford magnet schools which are specialized. All day kindergarten may bring students back. (c) accolades for decreases such as energy conservation, switching oil and gas, special ed. Mike Santogatta stated electricity rates have gone down in schools dramatically; did convert 3 schools from oil to gas; next year's budget did source natural gas for those schools and rate will be \$1.60 per gallon; replacing burners at Fisher school and putting in combination oil/natural gas burners and working on arrangement that is 95% of way to get natural gas to building from road which will have favorable variance in that account of about \$28,000. Special Ed outplacements,

noted doing nice job and total cost of students in outplacement, tracking transportation and para's and utilize people together and bring back as many as they can. Amount budgeted in accounts is down stating he and Mr. Parenti went through it and have made moves in conjunction with parents reviewing programs. Rob Parenti, Director of Pupil Services, reviewed burden of proof is not a law but a written memo and State Board of Ed directive; reviewed. Have sat with families with goal to meet needs of student. Pat Budnick (a) increase in computer software in Special Ed. Rob Parenti, software on online web based program to do all individual education plans (IEP's) for students and was being funded by ARRA and money is now gone and the Governor has decreased IDEA grants but program is well worth cost and a lot is done with it and other schools can share IEP's with us and in long runs saves money; (b) diagnostic services. Mr. Parenti stated he combined diagnostics with other line item;. (c) speech and language specialist. Mr. Parenti noted some of that was funded through grants and now gone or lowered and looping funds back and shifting some personnel noting 2.6 and next year increase to 3 full time people and taking out contracted services. (d) copier costs up everywhere and one year saved and now up. Mr. Santogatta stated bought current copies which are 7 years old and now going out for lease bids and do not know where they will come in and numbers are estimates. Peter Cook (a) overall headcount is hiring 2 teachers or what is change. Dr. Distasio stated overall headcount change is zero because last year out of ERRA funded 2 teachers and holding on to those two teachers. Ralph Zovich (a) when new teachers get hired what do we have as far as mentoring or induction to help bring along. Peter Lovely, BEST changed to Team and a 2 year process, beginning teachers have mentor for 2 years and the state did put some funding into it and a stable mentorship and work through 5 different modules through 2 years which is planning classroom management, instruction, non education areas of education dealing with parent and community involvement, school climate. Mentorship program has 50 hours of mentoring a year to get paid. (b) coaching of literacy, math and was knowledge gained from contract services of Ed Connection and now institutionalized and brought to departments and teachers, can they turn around and help fellow colleagues in their department. Peter Lovely stated coaches hired were to build infrastructure on curriculum and assessment, reviewed. Mike Drozdick (a) how are federal and state funding affecting budget. Pete Lovely stated it has changed and no child left behind grant and funding in Plymouth is going down and federal funding/state funding all down; 14 tutors hired to work with students where time and money for salary can be adjusted but less money coming in. Two years ago hours of tutors were 132, 127 and now 120 days. Vicky Carey (a) regarding nutrition and is lunches still outsourced as well as cafeteria. Dr. Distasio stated we use Chartwells and working out very well for district. (b) in System Wide Services Lunch Program Support shows \$50,000 in 2011 and nothing there now. Mike Santogatta stated when ran program in the District it had its own enterprise system and we wrote checks against the Towns General budget and then paid back as we took in income and got reimbursement from the state. Over the years we owed the town \$120,000 when he came he put in budget to reimburse the town over the past few years for incurred debt and where support money came from. (c) we still have support for families that cannot pay for lunches. Mike Santogatta, we fully participate in free and reduced program noting the high school is at 22% on free and reduced; we do process applications and things change. Ralph Zovich (a) noted printout on off book grants and

mentioned that this is money sent direct to the BOE and not through General Fund budget, EERA and Federal nutrition was \$172,000 last year. Mike Santogatta stated expect to remain constant. (b) reviewed grants noting \$208,000 from magnet school program; Mike Santogatta stated that is transportation grant. School readiness \$107,000 noting if state or federal cut them and holding costs in general fund and for the record that settlement with PEA and teachers negotiation yielded zero percent increase in next budget and two small increases in subsequent years. Pat Budnick, during BOE workshop mentioned 10 additional vo-ag students next year; Dr. Distasio stated have 8 more going and tuition cost is around \$7900. Dr. Distasio stated Mr. Sandshaw works in our district in terms of cost avoidances from Feb. 2010 to 2011 with cost avoidance at \$233,000 and from Feb. 2011 to 2012 now up to \$448,000 and this is how we are able to continue with zero increase. Mr. Sandshaw has done a wonderful job in district. (c) THS budget, actual expenditure within 2010-2011 (noting return of \$197,000 surplus), emergency repair account extraordinary expenditure of \$108,216. Mike Santogatta stated there were a number of things noting in each school they shoveled roofs last year and between 4 schools \$75,000 in added costs; also added cameras, monitoring, within and upgraded existing system; paving repair; signage; replaced circulator pumps, air exchange unit repairs, fencing repair, installed gates, issues with auditorium lighting. (d) in proposed \$16,000 for emergency repairs; \$25,000 for general maintenance and is that reasonable; . Mike Santogatta stated that will be good but never know and noted Joe Dennis has done a great job with repairs and general maintenance. Gerry Bourbonniere noted THS is the largest square foot building in town and will be a higher cost.

#### 4. Public Comment

#### 5. Board Member Comments

Chairman Zovich thanked the Superintendent, Staff, BOE and Building Administrators, teachers and students for job well done. We currently have April 23<sup>rd</sup> at THS for budget hearing at 7 pm.

#### 6. Adjournment

**MOTION:** To adjourn by Vicky Carey; second Peter Cook and the vote unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Gudeczauskas  
Recording Secretary