

1 **Chittenden Central Supervisory Union**  
2 Westford School Board  
3 August 10, 2010  
4 Westford School in the Commons  
5

6 **Board Members Present:** Martha Heath, Andre Roy, Jennifer Townsend, Allison Weinhagen  
7

8 **Administrators Present:** Mike Deweese, Grant Geisler, David Wells  
9

10 **Others Present:** Rich Staab, David Brisson, Diane Siegriest, Conrad Racine, Richard Flynn,  
11 Eric Henshaw, Louise Jensen, Fred Pearson  
12

13 Martha Heath called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.  
14

15 The board reviewed the purpose of the meeting: to set a dollar value on a budget for FY'11 to  
16 be voted on August 24. Martha Heath thanked the community for their attendance at the last  
17 meeting and for their input. She stressed, however, that it is the job of the board to weigh and  
18 evaluate proposals and to finally approve the budget.  
19

20 **Budget Work Session**

21 Grant Geisler presented the redeveloped budget. Administration is recommending a reduction  
22 of \$28,014, which includes elimination of the proposed K-grade 4 World Language Program, a  
23 reduction in the paving project, and reduced expenditures in technology hardware, maintenance  
24 overtime, and principal travel/conference fees.  
25

26 Grant Geisler explained that the athletics budget is held at the current level. Mike Deweese  
27 recommended the board request a formation of an Athletic Study Committee at their August 23  
28 meeting to review future potential changes to the athletic program.  
29

30 Martha Heath asked for board questions/comments. Andre Roy asked about the maintenance  
31 overtime. Grant Geisler said the principal will closely monitor maintenance. Martha Heath  
32 asked for the dollar amount of some of the things maintenance does as part of overtime work  
33 (testing water quality, etc.).  
34

35 Martha Heath also asked about administration's thoughts on reducing the reading position.  
36 Could this position be reduced from .8FTE to .7FTE? David Wells said that would provide  
37 valuable time for interaction between teachers. Allison Weinhagen asked whether an energy  
38 audit has been conducted recently. David Wells said one has been done recently. Allison  
39 Weinhagen suggested lowering the thermostats as part of reviewing energy usage.  
40

41 Fred asked about the \$4,600 for officials fees. Rick Staab responded by giving the numbers for  
42 basketball. Fred also asked about tuition to other high schools – can Westford set a limit on  
43 what is paid for high school tuition? Mike Deweese explained the law pertaining to this topic.  
44

45 Eric Henshaw asked about technology expenditures and if the board would consider allocating  
46 a netbook for every student. David Wells affirmed commitment to take advantage of economic  
47 scale (value pricing) in purchasing technology and the budget includes more than just netbooks

48 and PCs. Regarding maintenance overtime, Eric questioned how this will be reduced – would  
49 an additional person be hired?

50  
51 Conrad Racine questioned the new law regarding the community's ability to decide where to  
52 send kids to high school. Conrad asked if the community can only vote on the dollar amount of  
53 the school budget, rather than individual line items. Mike Deweese explained the school  
54 designation law and that Conrad was correct – community members vote on the total dollar  
55 amount of the school budget.

56  
57 Diane Siegriest commented on the suggestion regarding setting the thermostats and asked about  
58 Westford's FY12 number for Challenges for Change (about \$60,000). Mike Deweese referred  
59 to federal money that may be available for the FY12 budget. She suggested cutting a third of  
60 the laptop cart money.

61  
62 David Brisson asked about student participation in sports. Fred requested more clarity on the  
63 line-by-line budget sheets.

64  
65 Martha Heath urged the community to attend budget workshops.

66  
67 Conrad Racine expressed displeasure with the signing of the teacher's contract a few days  
68 before the (previous) budget vote.

69  
70 Martha Heath asked for board members' reactions to these discussions. They discussed the  
71 possibility of reducing the reading specialist position from .8FTE to .7FTE, resulting in a  
72 further reduction of the budget of about \$6,470 and decided to add this reduction to the  
73 administration's recommendation.

74  
75 *Allison Weinhagen moved and Andre Roy seconded the motion to approve a budget of*  
76 *\$5,159,550 for vote on August 24, 2010. The motion passed 4-0.*

77  
78 **Planning for Public Informational Meeting**

79 The Public Informational Meeting will be held Wednesday, August 18, beginning at 7:00 p.m.  
80 at Westford School.

81  
82 The school board opted to create an informational tri-fold that would be mailed to voters that  
83 would provide information about the newly proposed budget.

84  
85 **Consent Agenda**

86 The Consent Agenda consisted of a recommendation for professional appointment and  
87 approval of the August 3, 2010 meeting minutes.

88  
89 *Allison Weinhagen moved and Andre Roy seconded the motion to approve the recommendation*  
90 *for professional appointment of a World Language position. The motion passed 4-0.*

91  
92 *Andre Roy moved and Allison Weinhagen seconded the motion to approve the minutes of*  
93 *August 3, as amended. The motion passed 4-0.*

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95 The board adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

96

97 Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Townsend, Clerk