

Chenery PTO Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

8:00 AM

Attendance: About 20

Minutes taken by Sunyoung Hong-Osborn

Minutes have been approved

PTO BUSINESS

- **Welcome:** Ms. Ganguly & Ms. Laura Vanderhart, Co-Presidents
- **Last meeting minutes (dated October 10, 2019):** Approved.

Q&A: Superintendent John Phelan

What are some big budget items for next year?:

Next few years, Chenery will have large class sizes. Principal McAllister and Assist. Principal Hartunian are looking into measures to reduce class size. We do have to live in this building until 2023 when the peak of the student population will be over.

What is it about next year that makes next budget so lean?:

We voted the budget back in 2015. The override was about \$3M or \$4M and we knew, with the projected expenses that we had in place, that that revenue will only last about 3 years. The town's budget goes up by about 4.5 to 5% a year with cost, salary, inflation, and contracted services, and the revenue could only go up by 2.5%.

If we get through next year, we will have gotten 5 or 6 years out of that 3 year amount of money. But we saved money each year. Every year, we had money left over as a town, we put it into a stabilization account. We have utilized and exhausted that stabilization fund so we have been using one-time money to pay for reoccurring expenses.

How is enrollment? Are we still actively growing every year?:

Yes. We did our enrollment update in October. We have another 65 to 70 students. Over last 7 years, we have averaged 85 new students a year.

Update on new school project?:

We are pouring concrete. We already ordered the steel. I do not have all the details but the pacing of the job is still on time and on target. The steel structure will start to go up. By June, we want to have all the steel up erected and then closed. If you are a 9th grader by 2021, you will walk into a new school in September 2021. They will leave the old school and occupy the

new wings. In the summer of 2021, we transfer the students over and we will begin to take down the current high school to ground and then start building up 7-8 grade side. In 2023, which is only 3.5 years away believe it or not, we will enter into the brand new middle school side of the building and we will become a whole 7-12 group of students at that level.

There was a discussion about a proposal to eliminate Math Accelerated program. What is your thought on that?:

We have Math Accelerated Program in Belmont. It has morphed over time and it has been challenging to facilitate over the last 2-3 years due to operational issues of class size, staffing, students traveling to high school, schedules matching up with the Chenery in the high school. We looked at all those challenges and tried to make it work. However, we concluded that this program really did not fit in with the middle school philosophy, having every body supported as a part of a team. It is a funding and operational challenge here at Chenery as well as at the high school.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 am.