

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellington, Connecticut
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

The Finance Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met on Thursday, May 10, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the School Administration Building at 47 Main Street.

Attendees:

Administrative Team Members: Mr. Stephen Cullinan

Finance Committee Members: Dr. Michael Young, Ms. Tracey Kiff-Judson, Mr. Andrew McNamar, Mr. Dale Roberson

Guest Speakers: Ms. Sonia Kaminsky, Dr. Joseph Fields, Ms. Patti Patton

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Committee Chairperson Ms. Kiff-Judson.

Agenda Items

- **Presentation of Health Insurance Proposal**
 - Mr. Cullinan reviewed our current insurance situation. Our premium is expected to increase 21-23% for the coming year due to unfavorable claims experience.
 - Mr. Cullinan reported that Mr. Clements, Board of Finance Chairperson, described our insurance situation to Ms. Sonia Kaminsky and Dr. Joseph Fields from Brown & Brown Insurance, who felt they could reduce our premium.
 - Ellington Board of Education currently uses May, Bonee & Walsh to broker our insurance and have been satisfied with their service. May, Bonee & Walsh have indicated that they cannot negotiate a better rate than has been quoted.
 - Our official enrollment period ends May 18. Ms. Kaminsky felt it might be possible to negotiate a rate change for October.
 - Ms. Kaminsky and Dr. Fields presented a proposal for reducing insurance premiums by going out to bid. They estimated that they could reduce our premium increase by at least 7-10%.
 - Brown & Brown offered several methods for compensating them for their work. Options included: paying an hourly fee, sharing 50% of any negotiated savings, or by making Brown & Brown broker of record whereby they would begin earning broker's fees paid by the carrier in the next full month.
 - Brown & Brown indicated that insurance companies are willing to lose money to avoid losing accounts, and Brown & Brown indicated that their volume of clients would give them more leverage in negotiations.
 - **Motion made by Dr. Young:** Recommend to the full Board of Education to engage the services of Brown & Brown as insurance broker effective June 1, 2012. **Second:** Mr. McNamar. **Votes in favor:** Mr. Young, Mr. McNamar. **Vote opposed:** Mr. Roberson (who wished to hear from other brokers). Motion passed by a vote of 2:1.

- **Review of Food Service Financials for 2011-2012**
 - Ms. Patton presented the monthly and year-to-date financials for the food services organization.
 - It is anticipated that we will end the year with a small profit of \$7,000 - \$10,000.
 - Our reserve account balance is approximately three months of operating expenses and is within the allowable range by statute.
 - It is not anticipated that we would need to increase lunch prices for next year.

- **Review of Food Service Publication**
 - Ms. Patton reviewed a brochure that she created to provide parents in response to questions regarding food services.
 - Committee members provided feedback on the brochure.
 - Ms. Patton anticipates providing the brochure to parents in the fall.

- **Old Business**
 - Monday night's contract negotiation with van drivers was cancelled by the union negotiator.

- **New Business**
 - None.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Mr. McNamar to adjourn. **Second:** Dr. Young. **Vote:** Approved unanimously. Tracey Kiff-Judson adjourned the meeting at 9:18 PM.

Minutes submitted by: _____
Tracey Kiff-Judson, Finance Committee Chairperson