

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ellington, Connecticut

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

The Finance Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room in the School Administration Building, 47 Main Street, Ellington, CT 06029.

Attendees:

Board of Education Members: Mrs. Jaime Foster, Mr. Michael Purcaro, Dr. Michael Young, Mr. Dan Keune (arrived at 12:18) and Mrs. Tracey Kiff-Judson

Administrative Team Members: Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Erin McGurk, Director of Educational Services and Mr. Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance & Operations (via conference call)

Call to Order: The meeting called to order at 12:10 p.m.

Agenda Items:

1. Budget 2017-2018

The meeting opened with a discussion of the transition and expulsion program from a financial planning perspective. Specifically, addressing the question, “Do we have an analysis as to when it might be wise to review the financial model of the program?” Dialog involved the merits of the program apart from the financial model and the need to address the needs of State mandates in the most efficient manner.

Next, the Superintendent presented some thoughts on budget options, including associated benefits and risks, in the event of State and Municipal budget changes.

The Superintendent’s Proposed Budget showed a 3.18% annual increase. The Superintendent’s presentation addressed questions that arose in the budget workshop.

As a result, discussion included: clarification of estimated health care savings, consideration of being self-insured on dental insurance, and incentives for custodial staff to move to a high-deductible plan for the benefit of staff and the Board.

It was clear that the work done in the Budget workshop, that ended with a working proposal of 3.18% annual increase was a sound and good faith best budget proposal, but the State’s budget situation necessitated further planning considerations by the Finance Committee.

A discussion of budget strategies and contingencies for future budget cuts ensued. Dialogues to find a budget level that would meet our students’ instructional needs and acknowledge the

exigencies of the State budget occurred. The result of this dialog was a revised budget proposal, drawing from the Superintendent's presentation, and the subsequent discussion.

By finding additional ways to be innovative in our business practices, and assuming additional risk on some line items, such as presuming we can reasonably move all the custodial staff to the high deductible plan, the revised proposal represents a transparent good-faith effort by the Board to ensure we put our students first, maintain our status as a high-performing district, encourage teacher and administrator innovation, and ensure that every effort has been made to contain costs and provide our taxpayers the best educational value.

A motion was made that the Finance Committee recommends that the Board of Education adopt a budget of \$37,071,969 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, representing an increase of \$972,220 or 2.69% over the current year's budget which reflects the itemized reductions as discussed.

1st. J. Foster

2nd. T. Kiff-Judson

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Michael Young
Finance Committee, Chair