

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellington, Connecticut
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

The Finance Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met on Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 7:04 p.m. in the School Administration Building at 47 Main Street.

Attendees:

Administrative Team Members: Ms. Meg Devlin

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

Guest Speakers: Ms. Patti Patton

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Committee Chairperson Dr. Young.

Agenda Items

1. Review of 2013-2014 Food Service Financials To Date

The proposed and approved reductions of cafeteria hours successfully brought the food service financials in balance. The reduction will remain in place. There is a positive balance of \$35,514.51. Labor hours and productivity are roughly even, with food costs about the same. Ms. Patton reported things may go back to prior experiences at the high school due to relief from USDA regulations. An across-the-board increase of \$.25 is requested for the fall 2014. Lunch Price Equity in Schools will require an increase in the price to equate free and reduced rates with paying customer rates. Reserves were reported lower due to losses from last year, but the reserves still meet requirements.

2. Review of 2013-2014 Budget Forecast

The group reviewed the budget forecast for the remainder of this fiscal year. The committee reviewed the year-end forecasted balances by category, including a +\$190,706 for health benefits and -\$10,344 in pre-paid contracted services due to security projects, and \$44,000 in other professional saved with the hiring of 2 constables in lieu of a resource officer. Overages have been reallocated to textbook purchases and security project costs (in Replacement Equipment Instruction.) The full Board of Education may want to discuss the value of retaining the constables. There is \$130,000 in regular pupil transportation related to a new contract.

3. Submission of 2014-2015 Board of Education Budget to Town

February 17 is the due date for budget submission. An amount of \$25,716 is proposed to be returned to the town budget.

4. Discussion of Uniform Chart of Accounts

Ms. Devlin reported on the situation with State plans to implement the Uniform Chart of Accounts. A State consensus on the accounting manual to which schools would map their software does not exist. There will be costs associated with doing the mapping (unfunded mandates.) The process seems rushed, costs are unclear, and a pilot program might be a better approach at this point. The full Board of Education should be advised of the possible costs if mapping is done by our staff. Any implications for us are a year away, June 2015. The committee agreed that the implementation

should probably be delayed until the state has clear direction. A letter from the Board of Education to local legislators would be welcome by the administration.

5. Discussion of Process for Non-Represented Contracts

Two volunteers from the Board of Education will be requested to meet with the nurses. For all other non-represented staff, the Finance committee will offer ten minute slots to present requests for board consideration.

6. Old Business

None.

7. New Business

Michael Purcaro stated that CABE has a good summary of the Governor's proposed budget, and mentioned three bills of interest to board members. Also mention was made of Steve's quote in the North Central News.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Ms. Kiff-Judson to adjourn. Mr. McNamar seconded the motion. Mr. Young adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: _____
Dr. Michael Young, Finance Committee Chairperson