

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ellington, Connecticut

The Finance Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met Thursday, August 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room in the School Administration Building.

Present were Messrs. Andrew McNamar, Michael Pucaro, Michael Young, and Ms. Tracey Kiff-Judson, Mrs. Margaret Devlin, Director of Business Services, Ms. Patti Patton, Food Services Supervisor, and Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools.

1. Approval of the 2014-2015 Food Services Financials

Ms. Patton reported her efforts to stimulate use of food services. Efforts included: starting breakfast program and expanding a la carte toward grab-and-go for some elementary schools and the high school.

Ms. Patton reported a Food Services budget deficit of (\$28,418) for the year, which was covered by reserves. She has taken actions to offset the loss with staff reductions through resignations and redistribution of hours. Price structure will remain steady for this year. Price increases last year affected the number of students buying lunches. Thoughts on winning back customers included a mobile app for pre-ordering lunches (to save students time waiting in line), more time for lunch, and fresh paint or murals to brighten the dining space.

2. Approval of the 2014-2015 Final Expenditures

\$18,452 will returned to the town at end of budget year. Committee discussed the minimum amount to target to have available at the end of the year, which could ultimately be returned to the town provided unexpected expenses in excess of that amount are incurred. A target return of around \$10,000 will continue to be advised.

Ms. Devlin provided an overview of the Object Summaries Variance Report. Committee members discussed various aspects of the balance sheet.

A motion was made to recommend to the board to transfer \$18,452 to the town.

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

1st. M. Purcaro

2nd. T. Kiff-Judson

3. Establish the 2015-2016 Budget Calendar

Ms. Devlin's Proposed Budget Calendar was reviewed and discussed. The committee was comfortable with the proposed calendar.

4. Develop the 2015-2016 Board of Education Budget Guidelines

Ms. Devlin presented the 2015-16 Budget Guide to the committee. The guide was reviewed and discussed, with particular attention to full-day kindergarten and grade K-6 realignment as a planning goal.

5. Old Business

None.

6. New Business

Dr. Nicol presented 2 items to the subcommittee as new business.

a. Attorney's fees. Negotiation costs have exceeded budgeted fees. Annual \$20K has been exceeded. New budget practices have attorney's fees billed and paid within the same budget cycle. This may require updating the proposed budget to accommodate new practices. A figure of \$70,000 was discussed as a possible projection for years where there are multiple contract negotiations.

b. Staffing budget in light of new hires was discussed. Dr. Nicol disclosed that he had hoped to have further discussion with the board about a new elementary hire that was passed in the August Board meeting. An additional first grade teacher has been approved, and it was clarified that this is an additional hire, due to class size.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:30 p.m.

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

1st. T. Kiff-Judson

2nd. M. Pucaro

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Michael Young
Finance Committee Chairperson