

# BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Ellington, Connecticut

The Finance Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room in the School Administration Building.

Present were Messrs. Andrew McNamar, Michael Purcaro, and Michael Young, Anita Yost from the Business Office, Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools and guest Sonia Kaminsky from Brown and Brown Insurance.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Budget

Ms. Kaminsky from Brown & Brown Insurance (broker) provided an overview of ConnectiCare's (carrier) final health insurance rates to the committee. She explained the process taken to get to the rates, which included the Board of Education's and the school administration's persistent negotiating efforts. The process also included the recent negotiation efforts with collective bargaining units. These efforts have resulted in achieving an overall -1.56% health insurance rate decrease as compared to the current fiscal year. This new and final rate represents an additional FY2017 budgetary savings of \$360,797.

Dr. Nicol and the committee discussed the most prudent manner in which to proceed taking into consideration the school district's tradition of and desire to propose fiscally conservative budget increases for the 2016-2017 school year and beyond.

Discussions centered on the Board's maintenance of effort (MOE) teaching positions that were funded through the Board's budget during the 2015-2016 school year, yet were to be funded through Hartford Choice grant monies for the 2016-2017 school year. It is the contention of Dr. Nicol that the current health insurance savings could not have been anticipated and that if it was those positions would have remained in the Board's budget for the 2016-2017 school year.

With recent fiscal developments at the state level and the uncertainty of grant funding moving forward, funding teaching positions that will incur annual contractual increases through grants has become a less than desirable budgeting method.

Therefore, the committee agreed conceptually to the following:

- To recommend to the Board of Education in a special meeting to occur prior to April 12<sup>th</sup> to move back into the Board's 2016-2017 proposed budget those positions to be partially funded by Hartford Choice grant funds.
- To recommend to the Board of Education to recommend to the Board of Finance to reduce the current 3.28% increase of the 2016-2017 budget by \$360,797 minus the cost of the teaching positions previously proposed to be funded by Hartford Choice grants.

It is understood by the committee that this proposed reduction would lower the Board's requested budget increase for FY2017 from 3.28% to below 3.0%.

The school administration will present firm financial numbers at the special Board of Education meeting.

2. Director of Finance and Operations position

The committee discussed and approved with minor modifications the Director of Finance and Operations job description and job vacancy flyer as directed by the Board of Education.

3. Old Business

None

4. New Business

None

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:16 p.m.

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

1<sup>st</sup>. A. McNamar

2<sup>nd</sup>. M. Purcaro

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Michael Young  
Finance Committee Chairperson