

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellington, Connecticut

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

The Finance Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met Monday, April 24, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. in the Superintendent's Office in the School Administration Building, 47 Main Street, Ellington, CT 06029.

Attendees:

Board of Education Members: Mr. Michael Purcaro, Dr. Michael Young and Ms. Tracey Kiff-Judson

Administrative Team Members:

Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools, and Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance & Operations.

Call to Order: The meeting called to order at 12:14 p.m.

Agenda Items:

1. 2017-2018 Budget
 - a. Brian Greenleaf overviewed the current budget process and situation with regard to the overall town budget. Of the two budgets publicly presented, the alternative budget not based on the Governor's budget was used as the basis of discussions. The Board of Finance is proposing a 1.2 mil increase in this year's town budget. This requires the Board of Education to find cuts of \$200K from its proposed budget.
 - b. It was discussed that using the alternative budget presumes none of the Governor's tax shifting and cost-shifting proposals will be implemented. Should the Governor's budget proposal be implemented in part or fully, the Town's contingency fund would be the likely source for covering state costs that are passed to the town after our budget process has been completed.
 - c. Spreadsheets delivered to the subcommittee, some prepared by the Board of Finance show that the current town proposal includes substantial revenue such as \$9M in Education Cost Sharing payments to the town as well as continued municipal aid for roads and other projects.
 - d. Some discussion of how to budget Special Education reimbursements were discussed in light of proposed changes to how these payments might be made to the town or the school district.

e. The Superintendent presented his revised budget cuts, totaling \$200,151. This included revised higher transportation costs with First Student providing new buses with no savings, no change in our current health care costs (0% increase), the non-replacement of a technology education teacher, an increase to 1.0 FTE from .6 FTE for a Spanish teacher, elimination of a new assistant principal position (salary and benefits) from the proposed budget and a few smaller system-wide cuts and transfers from risk accounts and the dynamics of retirements.

[Finance Committee Exhibit "Budget Proposals for Discussion]

f. The committee discussed how these cuts might impact each Ellington school individually, and how to present this to the public, to show the hard decisions that were made, and what was protected as important to keep the schools moving forward.

g. It was suggested that it be clear that these proposals represent next year's requests that should not impact current year school operations.

A motion was made to recommend for approval by the Board of Education, a budget cut of \$200,000 to bring the 2017-18 budget request to \$36,871,969.

1st. Michael Purcaro

2nd. Tracey Kiff-Judson

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Michael Young
Finance Committee Chair