

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ellington, Connecticut

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

The Finance Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 4:00 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: Mr. Michael Purcaro, Mrs. Liz Nord, Mrs. Kris Picard-Wambolt, Mrs. Tracey Kiff-Judson, Mrs. Jen Dzen

Administrative Team Members: Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance & Operations, Mr. Brian Hendrickson, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Kristy LaPorte, Director of Special Services

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mr. Purcaro at 4:02 p.m.

Agenda Items:

1. Discussion of the 2019-2020 Budget

Dr. Nicol begins by stating that the administration has been working hard to adjust the budget over the course of February and March. There are two categories for reduction of the budget, the first is restructuring of administrative team members based on potential internal promotions.

Mr. Hendrickson speaks to the model of peer based support for curriculum and professional development, which has strong backing by the faculty. The restructuring replaces two administrative team members with coaches. It will also allow for internal leadership opportunities for current staff members. Mrs. Nord states that she thinks the change and coaching is a great idea.

Mrs. Kiff-Judson asks a question regarding the ability of the district to perform evaluations. Dr. Nicol states that the restructuring does not hurt the ability of the administration to perform observations, one driving factor in the original hiring of the curriculum supervisor positions, as the number of administrators remains constant.

Dr. Nicol explains that part of this savings is possible due to the appointment of co-principals at the Middle School. Mrs. Nord asks about any changes to the job description.

Mr. Purcaro states that before board approval, he would like to have a further discussion of any contractual implications of creating the co-principal position.

Mr. Greenleaf explains the second portion of the budget reduction, which is tied to financing and operations. The health insurance number held in January was 7.75%, however since that time the administration has worked to get costs down. At this point in time, the new percentage was roughly 2.25%. Mr. Greenleaf states that this is despite a loss ratio of over 100%. Mr. Purcaro encourages the administration to continue pursuing additional cost savings in this area.

Mr. Greenleaf continues to explain two factors that negate some of the savings, including additional costs for pensions and financial software implementation. Both of these factors were pushed on the district.

Change to costs for of CMERS pension obligation stems from the modification of the discount rate, a decision made by the Comptroller's office. However, the administration is working with statewide stakeholder groups and local legislators to make longer-term change.

Motion: To recommend that the Board of Education to adopt, in concept, the reduction of the budget as presented.

1st. T. Kiff-Judson

2nd. L. Nord

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Purcaro, Finance Committee, Chair