

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ellington, Connecticut

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

The Finance Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Library Presentation Room in the Ellington High School, 37 Maple Street, Ellington, CT 06029.

Attendees:

Board of Education Members: Mr. Michael Purcaro, Mrs. Jaime Foster, Mr. Andrew McNamar, Mrs. Kristen Picard-Wambolt, Mrs. Kerry Socha and Mrs. Tracey Kiff-Judson.

Administrative Team Members: Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance & Operations

Call to Order: The meeting called to order at 6:06 p.m.

Agenda Items:

1. Continued Discussion of 2018-2019 Budget Programs

Dr. Nicol stated that the administration has been reviewing many programs at the Board's will. The focus tonight is on Food Service. The administration is not seeking any action on this item tonight but will present again at the regular Board meeting on February 28, 2018.

Mr. Greenleaf reviewed the current year through December. Currently the program is running in the black, by \$18,000. This is consistent with last year's financials. Lunch service is slightly off from the three year average, however the breakfast program has grown to offset the decrease.

The advantages to an FSMC are the ability to leverage a national network for increased food options and variety. FSMCs have food development departments, with recipes that are tested and proven nationally. Mrs. Foster stated that she would like to see us exceed the relaxing of nutritional standards at the federal level and move towards a different model of food preparation. She would like to see a lower percentage of frozen meals used in the district.

Mr. Greenleaf stated that there is also the ability to add a part-time dietician to assist with communication and wellness promotion. Dr. Nicol states this will help us as we look to reset our wellness work throughout the district.

Mr. Purcaro asked about the responsibilities of the FSMC. Mr. Greenleaf stated that as the district we are the authority, with the responsibility to oversee the program, its financials, including setting lunch prices. The FSMC's job is to manage the program and provide recommendations.

Mrs. Picard-Wambolt expressed a concern over current employees and whether they would be out of a job. Mr. Greenleaf stated that FSMC hires current employees at high rates.

Mr. Greenleaf noted that the district can ask for a guaranteed surplus as part of the RFP process. Mr. Purcaro asked what we can expect as a range for this surplus, based on what other districts see. Mr. Greenleaf will get back to the Board on this question but notes that FSMCs can leverage national pricing and could potentially increase sales.

Mrs. Socha discussed what it would take to move from the current model of food service to one based more on family style meals, with longer time. Dr. Nicol states this is an admirable goal but would take a broader cultural shift that cannot happen overnight.

Mr. Greenleaf noted that the current program is financially stable. There is more oversight required by the district for a FSMC typically.

Mr. Greenleaf will attend a meeting with CSDE to discuss the RFP process on February 28, 2018 and report back to the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Michael Purcaro, Finance Committee, Chair