



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, April 13, 2016
THS Little Theater- 50 Major Besse Drive**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Fiona Cappabianca, Chair ; Ellen Hoehne; Jim Lamoin; Jessica Richardson; Kenneth P. Traub; Peter Vergaro

Administration: Jerry Domanico, Director of Business Services; Lynda T. Reitman, Interim Superintendent

Absent: Joanne Brogis; Bill Knight, Daniel Thibault; Mayor Carbone

Approval of redistribution of 2016-17 budget reductions

Mr. Lamoin made a motion to discuss the redistribution of 2016-2017 budget. Mr. Vergaro seconded the motion.

Ms. Reitman discussed her serious concerns about their ability to provide quality education to their students with the budget as is. The budget cuts were discussed.

Mr. Domanico discussed the New World documents that were distributed.

The Chair questioned if they knew if they could fund the health insurance at 10% yet.

Mr. Domanico no decision on whether or not we can reduce health insurance funding to 10%, decision is up to Board of Finance.

Mr. Vergaro questioned what it meant to move instruction music to grade 5.

Ms. Reitman stated it would be moved from grade 4 to grade 5.

Mr. Traub stated that he hopes that the Budget Committee, over the next month while the City deliberates, can look closer to see if there are any cuts that would hurt less.

Ms. Richardson stated her concern over cutting a custodian, middle school sports and secretaries.

The Chair stated that this budget is bare bones, any lower than this, we are going to have to discuss closing a school

Ms. Reitman stated that no other teachers can be cut and still meet contractual obligations.

The Chair questioned if they knew how many kids participated in dance, track and cheer.

Ms. Reitman stated roughly nine (9) in Dance, twenty (20) in Cheer, and roughly 85-100 in indoor track.

Ms. Richardson stated if the City gives us a percentage of what they want us to match, they should give us a vision of what this town wants for its schools.

Removing contingencies in Special Education and the Director position were discussed.

Mr. Traub wanted to clarify that the City has not asked us to cut this contingency money, the administration chose to eliminate that money as a last resort.

The Chair expressed her concern over the hits the high school took in the budget.

Ms. Reitman that if the Board doesn't want to accept the redistribution the the way it is, she urged them to tell us what you feel strongly about and want to put back in otherwise it won't be ready for the Board of Finance for Friday.

The Chair stated that she would like to see \$100,000 come out of Pre-K and restore something at the high school or reinstate some secretaries.

The Board voted to approve the redistribution of the 2016-2017 budget. The vote did not pass with three (3) opposed, Ms. Hoehne, Ms. Richardson and Mr. Lamoin.

Mr. Traub made a motion to present it to the BOF and allow administration 4-6 weeks to step back and re-visit it but we have a bottom line to give to the city. Mr. Vergaro seconded the motion.

The Board voted to present the budget as submitted and continue to look for other efficiencies to possibly mitigate some of the damage to the building. Ms. Richardson and Ms. Hoehne opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Traub made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.