



Torrington Board of Education

HUGH W. POTTER
DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS SERVICES

LYNDA T. REITMAN
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Budget Committee Regular Meeting Wednesday, October 14, 2015 355 Migeon Avenue

MINUTES

Members Present: Fiona Cappabianca, Committee Chair; Jeremy Hinman; Daniel Thibault (left 7:16 p.m.)

Also Attending: Board of Education: John Kissko, Jim Lamoin, Jessica Richardson (7:14 p.m.)

Administration: Paula LaChance, Interim Director of Student Services; Susan M. Lubomski, Assistant Superintendent; Lynda T. Reitman, Interim Superintendent

Absent: None

1. Ms. Cappabianca called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
2. Roll Call was taken.
3. Mr. Thibault moved to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hinman. All in favor.
4. Mr. Thibault moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 23, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hinman. All in favor.
5. Ms. Reitman introduced various budget reports to the committee.
 - a. Reconciliation of the 2014-15 Budget (handouts A and B): Ms. Reitman noted that one Vogel-Wetmore capital project amendment was passed but not posted in the New World system, and that amount of \$45,677 could be covered by Medicaid funds. Members reviewed the reports. No member questions.
 - b. Reconciliation of the 2015-16 Budget and Salary Schedules (handouts C and D): Ms. Reitman stated that all sites were reconciled, and though a few items still need to be adjusted, those adjustments would be done by the full board meeting the following week. She also stated that administration was clamping down on schools to follow the budget.

Ms. Lubomski noted that, regarding the Salary Schedules, some adjustments to New World still needed to be done, e.g., paraprofessionals who are of necessity moving to new schools. She pointed out that an effort was being made to have New World mimic the Salary Schedules. Ms. Lubomski praised the hard work of the new accountant Mike Duva. No member questions.

6. Report on Special Education (handouts E and F): Ms. LaChance presented two reports showing the current spending for Special Education and budget and actual spending comparisons for 2014-15 and 2015-16 to date. Ms. Reitman praised the work of data secretary Beth Murphy and shared that Ms. Murphey is currently working to recognize costs that had not been but should be billed to Medicaid. Members reviewed the report.

Ms. Cappabianca expressed that she would like to see a report of the outplacement numbers broken down by regular education and special education. She pointed out that VO-AG tuition varies among schools that offer such programs, and that perhaps the district could make sure to offer the least expensive VO-AG schools exclusively until there are not longer seats at that school. Members discussed the Pre-K transportation costs that were already over budget. Ms. Cappabianca asked if the committee could have a report that shows expenditures for existing Pre-K programs and, separately, those for the Pre-K newly established from the recent federal grant, and particularly the numbers for Summer School. Ms. Lubomski said that that could be done.

7. Variance explanations of the Year-to-Date Expense Report: Ms. Reitman said that the explanation and report will be available at the next meeting.
8. Preliminary schedule for 2016-17 budget planning: Ms. Reitman explained her plan for the initial stages of the next budget process.
 - a. November 6, 2016 – Administration meets with principals to discuss the budget process and to relay the schedule;
 - b. December 1, 2015 – Principals submit their preliminary site budgets;
 - c. December 2 through December 18, 2015 – Administration meets with site managers individually to go over their budget proposals;
 - d. December 23, 2015 – Preliminary district budget due date;
 - e. January 13, 2016 – Superintendent presents district preliminary budget to the Budget Committee;
 - f. February 10, 2016 – Superintendent presents final district preliminary budget to the Budget Committee;
 - g. April 2016 – BOE Budget to the City.

Ms. Reitman stressed that vision and goals must be supported by budget choices at all levels. A preliminary vision will be developed for Torrington High School, which will include input from all stakeholders.

9. Comments for the Good of the Order: Members were in unison in thanking and commending the administration for the good work that went into these presentations.
10. Topics for future meetings: Ms. Cappabianca stated that the committee will simply carry on.
11. Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hinman and seconded by Ms. Cappabianca. All in favor.
12. Meeting adjourned 8:01 p.m.