



Torrington Board of Education

JERRY DOMANICO
DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS SERVICES

LYNDA T. REITMAN
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Budget Committee Regular Meeting **Wednesday, February 10, 2016** **355 Migeon Avenue**

MINUTES

Members Present: Kenneth P. Traub, Committee Chair; Joanne Brogis, Peter Vergaro

Members Absent: None

Also Attending: Board of Education: Fiona Cappabianca, Ellen Hoehne, Jim Lamoin, Jessica Richardson, Daniel Thibault

Administration: Eric Baim, Director of Secondary Education; David Bascetta, Director of Facilities; Jerry Domanico, Director of Business Services; Paula LaChance, Interim Director of Student Services; Susan M. Lubomski, Assistant Superintendent; Lynda T. Reitman, Interim Superintendent

1. Mr. Traub called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call was taken. Michael Tyler (THS) and Lisa Melaragno (VO) were announced as the TEA representatives to the budget committee but were not present this evening.
3. Dr. Brogis made a motion to approve the agenda, Mr. Vergaro seconded. All in favor.
4. **Review of monthly financials**

The monthly financial report was reviewed by Ms. Reitman and Mr. Domanico and there was a brief discussion of account balances and of several accounts which were currently running over-budget.

Mr. Traub asked the district to provide the committee next month with a plan for mitigating all overages in the budget. It was commented that the Board is likely to seek assistance from the Board of Finance but the district will have to look long and hard at resolving the issues on its own. The district will also need to research how it plans to fund speculated increases going forward.

The question was asked if we have reviewed all expenditures such as Trash removal. Are we looking at all ways to reduce costs?

A brief discussion regarding athletics and the potential for granting “naming rights” at new stadium. Can the district benefit from advertising dollars? The committee asked Ms. Reitman to investigate what needs to be done at this point and whether the school governance committee can look into this.

It was requested for a future meeting that the district project to the end of the year all overages on accounts.

5. Special Education Update

Ms. LaChance reviewed Special Education expenditures as of January 2016. Not much change has occurred since last time. The department continues to look for ways to save money and Ms. LaChance is reviewing IEP’s school by school.

She is also working to keep students in district which requires putting in place programs that students are currently outplaced for. It will require spending some money in order to save money. Ms. LaChance is also looking at condensing programs to create efficiencies which will help to save money too. Summer services also needs to be reviewed and/or re-evaluated for next year.

Committee asked for a 5 year historical record of special education cost overruns.

A question was asked regarding Vo-Ag students and whether or not they need to take Vo-Ag to stay at school. Asked what happens when a student drops Vo-Ag. Would like to get assurance from Vo-Ag schools that students who drop Vo-Ag are returned to Torrington.

Brief discussion of homeless students and the increase in numbers.

6. PD expenses to date/ projections to year end

Ms. Lubomski reviewed professional development expenditures. Information was given out on costs as well as a discussion regarding PSAT and SAT testing.

7. Budget planning 2016-2017

Ms. Reitman passed out information regarding budget drivers and reviewed the district’s budgeting process.

A motion was made by Mr. Vergaro to extend the meeting fifteen minutes, seconded by Dr. Brogis. All in favor.

Committee would like to see the district eventually develop a 3 year budget projection. While it is not feasible to do for this year (due to timing), would like to see this put into place for next year.

Brief discussion on shared services

8. Student activity account information

A list of all activity account advisors for the high school and middle school was passed out. The committee wants every advisor to track their own accounts and they should be reporting to the BOE. Committee indicated that club has the responsibility to track their account.

A motion was made by Mr. Vergaro to extend the meeting 10 minutes, seconded by Dr. Brogis. All in favor.

PTO's and anyone else who uses the BOE's Tax ID number is supposed to be responsible for tracking and managing their accounts and reporting to the BOE.

9. **Comments for the Good of the Order**

10. **Future Meetings:** Would like to discuss PTO's purchasing technology. Discussion of Vo-Ag programs and student enrollment. Reach out to TEA and other unions on the possibility of furlough days

11. Motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Brogis and seconded by Mr Vergaro. All in favor.

12. Meeting adjourned 9:18 p.m.