

These minutes have been approved by the Torrington Board of Education on June 17, 2020.



Torrington Public Schools

SUSAN M. LUBOMSKI
SUPERINTENDENT

SUSAN B. FERGUSSON
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Special Meeting of the Board of Education Monday, June 8, 2020, 5:00 P.M. Zoom Meeting

The public was able to e-mail and dial in comments regarding the agenda. They were also able to watch the meeting via Zoom.

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 5:04 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Ms. Cappabianca, Ms. Spino, Mr. Eucalitto, Ms. Richardson, Ms. Todor, Ms. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Ms. Fappiano, Mr. Maniccia (5:18 P.M)
Also Present: Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Fergusson, Ms. Schulte, Mr. Arum, Mr. Barlow, Mr. Lafreniere
3. School/Community Service/Public Participation: None
4. Discussion on 2020/2021 Budget: Mr. Arum shared the Budget Analysis from 2019-2020 to 2020-2021. The budget the Board of Finance approved was \$76,837,593 which was a \$1,737,502 increase from last year. The potential budget reductions document was presented to the board. Phase one reductions included: Workers Compensation, Liability Insurance, Natural Gas, Severance, Electricity, Retiree Insurance and Health Insurance. Phase 2 reductions included staffing savings from retirees and salary differentials as well as the transfer of behavioral positions from the general budget to the Alliance budget. The revised budget for 2020-2021 is \$76,532,898. Ms. Cappabianca read the Capital Budget reductions proposed. Ms. Fappiano asked about the technology reduction and the new proposal of \$101,500. The Capital budget proposal was \$203,195, almost a 1 million dollar cut. The grand total presented for Capital and Capital Technology was \$304,695. The total reduction was \$1,210,505 to reach the final BOF approved budget. The board discussed the cuts in the Capital budget and possible off-sets from the general/operational budget. A clarification was made that going forward, the COVID expenses would be paid by the City. We should be getting more guidance from the state regarding what will be considered COVID related. Ms.

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Richardson stated that the cuts are all from capital and did administration have any cuts in operations? Ms. Cappabianca said that would mean cutting staff and it appeared throughout the budget season that the Board did not want to make staffing cuts. In addition, in these uncertain times, it would be shortsighted to make staffing cuts. Ms. Fappiano made a motion to cut \$260,000 from transportation from the operating budget and add \$260,000 to the building capital budget, Ms. Richardson seconds. The board discussed the motion. The final vote was 1-yes and 8-no. Motion did not carry.

5. Action on 2020/2021 Budget:
 - a. Workers compensation - \$50,746 - all in favor
 - b. Liability insurance - \$12,000 - all in favor
 - c. Natural Gas - \$12,000 - all in favor
 - d. Severance - \$19,000 - all in favor
 - e. Electricity - \$53,352 - all in favor
 - f. Retiree Insurance - \$50,000 - all in favor
 - g. Health Insurance \$891,833 - all in favor
 - h. Retirement savings of \$165,000 - all in favor
 - i. Alliance budget - \$514,063 - all in favor
 - j. Remove everything from the Capital Technology budget with exception of the items listed in the packet leaving \$101,500 in Capital Technology- all in favor
 - k. Remove all items from the Capital Building budget with the exception of items listed in the packet, leaving the total Capital Building budget at \$203,195 - Ms. Fappiano voted no and everyone else was in favor. Motion carries.
6. Comments for the Good of the Order: (The following comments are paraphrased)
7. Armand Maniccia “Thank you to everyone on the board, teachers and central office.”
Cathy Todor “Thank you for central office for putting in effort for coming up with these numbers and thanks to everyone.”
Ed Corey “I attended the BLM protest at Co-Park attended and I was proud of the kids who were in there. Thank you everyone at central office for navigating through this terrible pandemic.”
Gary Eucalitto “I concur with Ed on both of those items, and WHO stated that asymptomatic COVID-19 spread is rare among children.”
Fiona Cappabianca “Thank you to the board members, and this is the first time in a long time that we’ve had a budget increase at all, so kudos to everyone.”
8. Adjournment: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.