



## Torrington Board of Education

JERRY DOMANICO  
DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS SERVICES

LYNDA T. REITMAN  
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

### Special Meeting of the Budget Committee

Monday, March 14, 2016

355 Migeon Avenue

#### MINUTES

**Members Present:** Kenneth P. Traub, Committee Chair; Peter Vergaro; Daniel Thibault

**Members Absent:** Joanne Brogis

**Also Attending:** Board of Education: Fiona Cappabianca, Ellen Hoehne, Jim Lamoin, Jessica Richardson, Bill Knight

Administration: Eric Baim, Director of Secondary Education; David Bascetta, Director of Facilities; Joe Campolietta, Director of Human Resources; Jerry Domanico, Director of Business Services; Susan M. Lubomski, Assistant Superintendent; Lynda T. Reitman, Interim Superintendent.

1. Mr. Traub called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.
2. Roll Call was taken.
3. Discussion on Personnel Committee Recommendation for Director of Student Services

Overview was given of the personnel committee discussion. There are currently 10-11 Director vacancies posted with the lowest salary posted as \$137,000. District needs to offer a competitive salary and post the position as a Director, not as Interim. There were no applicants the last time the district posted the position. As this would be for a July 1 hiring, we would have to put the high end of the salary range in the budget for next year. District cannot post for the position until there is agreement by the Board of Education.

4. Possible Action on Director of Student Services

A recommendation to post the position at \$137,000 - \$150,000, beginning July 1, 2016, with a recommendation for the Board to accept this was made by Mr. Thibault, seconded by Mr. Vergaro. All in favor.

5. Monthly Financials

The February monthly financials were presented. Mr. Traub requested that we also include a line item summary each month as well. Mr. Vergaro moved to send the financials to the full Board. Seconded by Mr. Thibault. All in favor.

6. Superintendent's recommendations to mitigate the projected Budget short fall

Ms. Reitman reviewed the mitigation plan. An error in reported expenditures was noted in that a health insurance credit was taken twice so the actual shortfall is \$1,153,377. The Committee asked about savings from closing school a week early, however the district would not meet the 181 day requirement if this was done. There was discussion about the Board approaching the unions for give backs such as furlough days. There was discussion of reducing the final two health insurance payments to 100% of claims rather than 110%. Mr. Domanico has made inquiries with the city and is waiting for a response.

The mitigation plan will continue to be reviewed and additional sources of reductions should be explored. The committee instructed the Superintendent to look into possibly layoffs for the remainder of the year as a means to save additional funds. Other areas to be looked at include Sports (but only as a last resort), substitutes (can we reduce this by \$100k?), funds from the lunch account, retirement contribution (what is our statutory obligation), can we make cuts to transportation, reduce the number of technicians contracted for in IT.

7. Superintendent's recommendations to reduce the proposed 2016-2017 Budget

Proposed reductions to the 2016-2017 budget were reviewed by the Superintendent. Reductions are not listed in priority order but by location.

Suggestions from the committee included looking at fully insured versus self-insured for health insurance as private industry is seeing reductions. Would like to solicit input from staff in buildings. Should be looking at possible revenue sources to help fund increase such as including "naming opportunities." Would there be any savings from a retirement incentive. Can we reach out to vendors to see if they are willing to work with us on costs. BOE negotiations committee needs to reach out to unions.

8. Comments for the Good of the Order.

9. Motion to adjourn at 8:31 pm was made by Mr. Thibault, seconded by Mr. Vergaro. All in favor.