



Torrington Board of Education

JERRY DOMANICO
DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS SERVICES

LYNDA T. REITMAN
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Special Meeting of the Budget Committee Wednesday, March 16, 2016 355 Migeon Avenue

MINUTES

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

Members Absent: None

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

Administration: Eric Baim, Director of Secondary Education; David Bascetta, Director of Facilities; Joe Campolieta, 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 5:05 p.m.
2. Roll Call was taken.
3. Review of Superintendent's recommendation to mitigate the proposed budget short fall

Ms. Reitman discussed the mitigation plan stating the YTD projected expenses is \$54,010,136, technology \$202,635, special education \$836,553, salaries and benefits \$16,059,901. The projected expenses total \$71,986,081. The 2015-2016 budget was \$70,832,704 leaving the projected deficit at \$1,153,377.

Recommended mitigation sources were discussed.

Mr. Bascetta spoke on the ADA project and they are still awaiting state approval.

Ms. Reitman discussed the mitigation sources that were investigated but not recommended. These items include spring sports, close school 1 week early, parents provide transportation to school, funding health insurance at 100% instead of 110%, immediate staff layoffs, pension plan payment reduction and furlough days.

Ms. Reitman discussed the supporting documentation.

Mr. Domanico discussed the Grant Caps.

Ms. Reitman discussed excess costs from the City at 299,316, cafeteria 144,190, capital: Vogel-Wetmore Contingency 20,000, capital: ADA Project at THS 689,871 totaling 1,153,377 to cover the projected deficit.

Mr. Traub clarified that the funding of health insurance at 100% instead of 110% would be \$242,203.

Mr. Traub questioned what ADA renovations entailed.

Mr. Bascetta discussed the ADA renovations; interior work, science labs, bathroom and auditorium.

Mr. Vergaro questioned if the people that get laid off can collect.

Mr. Domanico stated they can collect however a furlough day they cannot collect unemployment due to their contract.

Mr. Vergaro proposed to the Budget committee to recommend to the Board, cancellation of late busses, athletic transportation expense, cafeteria fund and excess cost and to prepare staff for a few days of layoffs.

Mr. Traub stated on Monday that the negotiations chairs are to meet with their bargaining units so it is out of the Superintendent's realm. He expressed his concern with going without the ADA compliance project. Since it is the last year to get it done.

In regards to cutting school days, Ms. Lubomski wanted to clarify that it is state statute that we are at 180 day minimum of instruction.

4. Possible action to forward to the full Board of Education the Superintendent's recommendations to mitigate the proposed budget short fall

Mr. Traub stated that administration showed us right now that we have three (3) "what ifs" on our list.

Mr. Traub recommended that we gets some answers to the "what ifs" before it goes to the full Board such as ADA project, funding of health insurance and excess costs.

The mitigation source of losing instructional time was discussed and what the statutory requirements are.

5. Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Vergaro and seconded by Mr Thibault. All in favor.
6. Meeting adjourned 5:58 p.m.