

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Budget Committee Minutes
January 13, 2010**

Committee members present were: Chairperson Susan Cogswell, Ellen Hoehne, David Oliver, and Judith Raymond. Also present: Frank Rubino, Ken Traub, A. Bates Lyons, Andrew Nargi, Acting Superintendent Ed Arum, Incoming Superintendent Chris Leone, Director of Business Services, Danielle Batchelder, and Director of Facilities, David Bascetta.

1. Motion by Judith Raymond, seconded by Ellen Hoehne to accept the minutes of December 9, 2009. Motion carried 4-0.
2. December 2009 Financial Statement
The December 31, 2009 financial report is a rough picture of where the District may end as of June 2010. The following is a list of surplus and (deficit) accounts:

Health Insurance	(\$451,144)
Retiree Insurance	\$3,739
Life/LTD Insurance	\$14,393
Worker's Compensation	\$13,779
Unemployment Compensation	(\$40,000)
Early Retirement	(\$3,565)
Natural Gas – Interruptible	\$75,000
Liability/Property Insurance	\$12,344
Athletic Insurance	\$407
Electricity	\$83,000
Sewer Fee	\$6,711
Disposal Fee	\$1,332
Tutors	\$45,000
Clothing Allowance	\$938
Severance	\$175,305

A snapshot in time to review the following:

(a) Certified Salaries	Budget	Projected
	\$26,087,011	\$26,242,282
		(\$155,271)
(b) Classified Salaries	\$6,213,032	\$6,225,307
		(\$12,275)

	Budget		Projected
(c) Tuition			
Public SPED	\$5,112,451	(\$445,429) ¹	\$5,557,880
Private SPED			
Regular Ed – Out-placed			
Vo-Ag Tuition	\$455,544	\$39,960	\$415,584
(d) Transportation			
SPED Additional Runs	\$3,719,518	(\$61,142) ¹	\$3,780,660
OOD SPED			
In-District SPED			
Regular Ed Additional Runs			
Pupil Transportation			
Non-Public Transportation			

¹ Excess Cost Grant Reimbursement – “If however, insufficient local funds are appropriated to meet such special education expenditures, the town must turn over the state grant money to the local Board of Education or credit the amount to the appropriate Board of Education’s expenditure account, i.e. the state grant funds must be used to support those additional costs.”

Mr. Arum reported that three out-of-district students will be graduating on January 22, 2010 and two students may be attending a different school. This could mean a possible savings in tuition of \$74,952.

Mr. Traub asked a question on bottled gas and David Bascetta responded that it is used to heat the storage barn at the Middle School and for use in the floor stripping machines.

3. Budget Transfers:

- a. To purchase bookcases to hold the new Good Habits, Great Readers Literacy and Resource materials.

Motion by Judith Raymond, seconded by David Oliver to approve the transfer.
Motion carried 4-0.

4. Analysis of City Demographics

Mr. Arum presented a number of statistics relating to the following items:

- Free and reduced lunch growth from 2005-2009
- City demographics by race
- City educational attainment
- Income-loss census
- Residential sales

Mr Arum will forward the information to the Board of Education, and the

City of Torrington Plan of Conservation and Development.

5. Board of Finance meeting of December 30, 2009
Mr. Arum reviewed the meeting and handed out a revised Capital Project Revolving Fund procedure. Mr. Arum will make the necessary change as discussed at the meeting. This change will indicate that any large capital project must be used for its stated purpose and cannot be transferred or used for any other reason.
6. Items for the good of the order
The committee was informed that the District has received the \$5,000 grant for dropout prevention.
7. RFP for Design Service
Mr. Arum informed the committee that ten RFP's were received and the prices ranged from \$155,450 to \$29,875.

Mr. Traub asked if we could investigate whether any City department could do some of the work as outlined in the RFP document.
8. Mr. Nargi discussed the health insurance issue. He was informed that Mr. Arum has asked the City for information. Ms. Batchelder said that the City was preparing an RFQ for a Benefits Consultant and that the City will send out this proposal.
9. 2010-2011 Budget Development Calendar
The discussion centered on how to present the budget and how many meetings would be required. Incoming Superintendent Leone will be sending his Superintendent's Budget Calendar timeline to the Board for comments.

Motion to adjourn was made by David Oliver and seconded by Judith Raymond. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Submitted by
Edward Arum