



Torrington Board of Education

CHRISTOPHER G. LEONE
SUPERINTENDENT

FRANK RUBINO
BOARD CHAIR

Budget Committee Minutes February 11, 2010

**This was rescheduled from February 10, 2010, due to snow.

Committee members present were: Chairperson Susan Cogswell; Ellen Hoehne and Judith Raymond. Also present were: Andrew Nargi, Ken Traub, Superintendent Christopher Leone, Director of Business Services Danielle Batchelder, and Director of Human Resources Bill Joslyn.

1. Motion by Ellen Hoehne, seconded by Judith Raymond, to accept the minutes of January 13, 2010. Motion carried 3-0.

2. Budget Transfers

To transfer Technology funds from “software” line item to “hardware” line item to replace a lab at Southwest School that dates back to 2002. Mr. Leone explained that this school was not included in ARRA money like Forbes and Vogel-Wetmore, which will need similar upgrades.

Motion by Judith Raymond, seconded by Ellen Hoehne, to approved the transfer. Motion carried 3-0.

3. January 2010 Financial Statement.

The January 31, 2010, financial report is attached and paints a rough picture of where the District may end as of June 30, 2010.

Chairperson Cogswell noted the changed format, which was supported by the Committee members.

Mrs. Batchelder reported a projected surplus of \$363,450 for all accounts. She drew specific attention to Certified Salaries, Tutors, Unemployment and Legal accounts. She noted the Insurance Account deficit of (\$451,143) and Excess Cost deficit of (\$612,431).

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Mr. Leone explained that the insurance deficit can be satisfied by using the proceeds from the Reimbursable Grant and also a portion of the projected surplus. Mr. Leone also detailed a meeting with BOF member Wendy Traub, BOE Chair Frank Rubino, and Mayor Bingham that will provide for a settlement to the lingering insurance issue and provide BOE with surplus proceeds to offset expected 2010-2011 insurance increases.

Mrs. Raymond questioned if Kelly Services was due the credit for a surplus in the Substitute line item. Mrs. Batchelder responded that the surplus in the line item was a result of teachers taking less time.

Committee members, Mr. Leone and Mrs. Batchelder discussed the estimated legal costs of \$100,000 which was \$30,000 above budget. There was agreement that a full-time lawyer might be a future consideration. Chairperson Cogswell recommended reviewing the city's legal service structure.

Motion by Judith Raymond, seconded by Ellen Hoehne, to accept the report. Motion carried 3-0.

4. Transportation Proposal

Mrs. Batchelder and Mr. Leone presented a proposal from All-Star transportation (attached) that will defer costs for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 and rescind a 3% increase for 2010-2011. This concession was with a request to extend the current contract to 2015 and include a 4% increase in the final three years. Mr. Leone requested that the item be transferred to the BOE Agenda for discussion on February 17, 2010.

Chairperson Cogswell wished for the item to go to discussion agenda for February 17, 2010, BOE meeting but wanted a dialog on deferring costs. Also, the Chairperson wanted to see draft contract language on these deferred costs.

Motion by Ellen Hoehne, seconded by Judith Raymond, to move the proposal to the discussion agenda for February 17, 2010. Motion carried 3-0.

5. CJR Proposal

Mr. Leone presented three proposals from Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR). The first guaranteed 10 seats through August 2010 at a 10% discount. The second extended the discount for up to 15 seats through August 2011. The third extended the discount to 15% if TPS reaches 20 students.

Mr. Traub asked if 20 was reasonable. Mr. Leone said it would be done via the PPT process and that TPS would not just transfer a student.

Mr. Leone requested that the item be transferred to the BOE Agenda for Consent on February 17, 2010. Chairperson Cogswell asked that due to the significance and detail for the item that it be transferred to the BOE Agenda for Discussion on February 17, 2010.

Motion by Judith Raymond, seconded by Ellen Hoehne, to move the proposal to the discussion agenda for February 17, 2010. Motion carried 3-0.

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6. Presentation given by Mr. Leone on three revenue scenarios (Best Case, Worst Case and Most Likely Case) for 2010-2011. (See Attached) A discussion was held on facility use including the future of Southeast School with more information expected from the City of Torrington in late February. Chairperson Cogswell thanked the staff for providing a high level discussion that informs all for the budget.

7. Items for the good of the order

Mr. Leone presented a draft letter to Wendy Traub, BOF, to settle the pending insurance issue. Mr. Nargi requested BOE soliciting its own insurance quote for 2010-2011. Mr. Leone agreed that this would not be a burden and will address accordingly. Mr. Leone will move the item as a BOE Discussion Item for February 17, 2010, and will ask Finance Office to solicit an insurance quote for 2010-2011.

Mr. Leone presented a proposal from MSG Varsity network. The proposal included \$11,000 over the next two fiscal years for Torrington High School. This includes a \$1000 camera, \$4000 in equipment, \$2,000 line item budget, and four (4) \$1,000 scholarships. Mr. Leone will move the item as a BOE Consent Item for February 17, 2010.

Chairperson Cogswell asked if BOE members should attend School Based Budget Workshops. Mr. Leone said it was encouraged.

8. Motion to adjourn was made by Ellen Hoehne and seconded by Judith Raymond. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Submitted by Christopher Leone

Reviewed by Danielle Batchelder and Bill Joslyn