



Torrington Board of Education

CHRISTOPHER G. LEONE
SUPERINTENDENT

FRANK RUBINO
BOARD CHAIR

Budget Committee Minutes June 9, 2010

Committee members present were: Chairperson Susan Cogswell, Ellen Hoehne, Judith Raymond and David Oliver. Also present were: BOE Chair Frank Rubino, BOE member Bates Lyons Superintendent Christopher Leone, Director of Business Services Danielle Batchelder, and Director of Facilities, David Bascetta.

1. Call to order at 6:01pm
2. Roll Call
3. Review of Minutes from May 12, 2010 meeting: Motion by Ellen Hoehne and seconded by Judy Raymond to accept the minutes of May 12, 2010 Meeting. Motion carried 4-0.
4. May 2010 Financial Statement
 - a. Superintendent Leone explained that as it stands currently, the Board of Education can cover the deficit in special education and insurance with the surplus money from all other accounts.
 - b. Frank Rubino noted that the Insurance deficit was incorrect in the balance section and the overall surplus was greater than what was documented.
 - c. Superintendent Leone stated that our projected surplus as of June 30th would be approximately \$120,000 more than the May projections; however we are monitoring it closely.
 - d. Motion made by David Oliver and seconded by Ellen Hoehne to accept the Financial Statement with the Insurance deficit corrected in the balance section of the statement. Motion carried 4-0.
5. 2009-2010 Budget Estimated Reconciliation
 - a. Superintendent Leone commented on the adjusted 2009-2010 estimated budget by explaining how the ECS and ARRA ECS are calculated and pass through from the state. Superintendent Leone stated that the public Transportation Grant was decreased by \$247,664 and the Excess Cost Grant was \$194,408 less than projected. Other grants are holding steady.
6. Budget Transfers
 - a. Danielle Batchelder reviewed all Budget transfers: 2010-BAT-10, 2010-BAT-12, 2010-BAT-13, 2010-BAT-14, 2010-BAT-15, and 2010-BAT-16 were tabled from the prior Budget Committee meeting in order to have a closer projection of year end funds.

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- b. Budget transfer 2010-BAT-17 – transfer from athletic trainer to athletic transportation, 2010-BAT-18 – transfer from communications to maintenance/repairs, 2010-BAT-19 – transfer from severance to instructional and non-instructional equipment were new transfers this month.
 - c. Superintendent Leone stated that “we will live within our means” and monitor the surplus and adjust accordingly.
 - d. Motion was made by David Oliver and seconded by Ellen Hoehne to approve all budget transfers. Motion carried 4-0.
7. Banking Services Report
- a. Danielle Batchelder updated committee on the new banking proposal that the City put out. The City and BOE will be working together to possibly change banks or keep the current bank if they begin to lower their charges.
8. CABA Dues
- a. Superintendent Leone notified CABA that the district would not continue to utilize their services for 10/11. CABA requested a meeting to discuss this further.
 - b. Bates Lyons commented on his views of CABA. Mr. Lyons feels that CABA is a valuable tool for professional development for Board members and school staff. Mr. Lyons does not agree with eliminating CABA services.
 - c. Susan Cogswell stated that we need to begin to address legislative updates.
 - d. Superintendent Leone stated that the 10/11 budget was adopted without the CABA dues and fees. Mr. Leone also stated that Torrington does not need the same services as other districts and CABA serves all districts as one. We need to worry about Torrington, not everyone else. We need to do what’s best for Torrington.
 - e. David Oliver stated that CABA is a valuable tool but is it the most legislatively effective way to help Torrington? Mr. Oliver also stated that there could be another or better tool out there.
9. LARC Transition/Educational Service Agreement
- a. Superintendent Leone shared the new LARC proposal. LARC decreased their rates to \$35,000/student and each additional student over 5 students would be charged \$30,000 for school year 10/11. School year 11/12 proposal was a 2.25% increase over 10-11.
 - b. Motion was made by Judy Raymond to take the proposal to the full Board. Seconded by Ellen Hoehne. Motion carried 4-0.
10. 2010-2011 Revised Recommended Budget
- a. Superintendent Leone presented the 10-11 revised budget taking into account the \$369,161 savings to the insurance and the \$100,000 that the Board of Finance reduced the budget by. Areas that were reduced were: Special Ed Contracted Services (\$168,000) and transferred into the ARRA IDEA grant; Special Education Transportation (\$122,825) from a recognized savings; #2 Oil (\$125,000) due to a recognized savings of less gallons used at a lower rate than projected; Upward Bound (\$10,000) due to a 20% reduction by the company.
 - b. Superintendent Leone passed out a 2009-10 breakout of Per Pupil Expenditure by school and by special ed and ELL costs.
 - c. Frank Rubino commented that certain numbers can throw off the PPE. There are many variables. Superintendent Leone agreed but said it was a starting point for discussion.

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- d. Frank Rubino stated that he wants to hold off on the guidance position until we know if we made AYP.
11. Discussion of 2010-2011 Potential Budget Issues
 - a. Superintendent Leone stated that the issues to watch are ECS figures and Public Transportation Grant.
 - b. Susan Cogswell commented that she is concerned about the \$1 million dollars from the insurance fund because we will not know exact insurance cost until September.
 - c. Susan Cogswell stated that she wants a presentation on legislative updates, bills that were passed this past session. Superintendent Leone will present that at the August retreat.
 12. Items for the Good of the Order

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Submitted by Danielle Batchelder
Reviewed by Chris Leone

