

March 18, 2021
Board of Finance and Finance Committee
#2 Board of Education Budget Hearing
2021-2022

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lainie McHugh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Trumbull, Connecticut. All those present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present / absent from the Board of Finance:

PRESENT

Michael Barker
Elaine Hammers
Marty Isaac
Lainie McHugh
Paul Timpanelli
Steve Choi
Vincent DeGennaro – Alternate
Christine El Eris – Alternate
Marc Mascola – Alternate

ABSENT

Also present:

First Selectman Vicki Tesoro; Maria Pires, Finance Director; Kathleen McGannon; Chief Administrative Officer; Cynthia Katske, Chief Administrative Officer; Therese Keegan, Auditor; Daniel Schopick, Esq., Town Attorney; Jackie Norcel, BOE; Marie Petitti, BOE; Tim Gallo, BOE; Peg Brindisi, BOE; Michele Mirmina, BOE; Susan Iwanicki; Asst. Superintendent; Tammy Hartman, Director of Pupil Personnel; Mary Isaac, Finance Committee; Alison Squicciarro, BOE; Tony Scinto, Finance Committee; Kevin Shively, Finance Committee; Carole Hans, Finance Committee; Dawn Cantafio, Finance Committee, Dr. Martin Semmel, Superintendent; Paul

Dr. Semmel thanked everyone for the opportunity to come back this evening to discuss the requested 3.81% Board of Education increase.

He then reviewed the 3.81% request of \$113,183,159 and went on to explain how the proposed increase of 3% vs. the requested 3.81% would affect the goals and objectives of the BOE.

There are items in the budget that are carry-overs from the previous administration that need to be resolved and by doing so will undercut the available funds necessary to accomplish the objectives and goals of the BOE.

- Special Revenue / Lunch Account deficiencies of \$430,000
- Magnet School Tuition increase of \$245,000
- Transportation Cliff of \$917,000.

The increased revenue for Bridgeport Ag-Sci of \$300,212 will not offset the deficiencies. The remaining deficiencies will have an effect on the following:

- Math and Literacy specialists – not added back
- Class sizes will be affected negatively; unable to add sections so classes will be larger.
- Critical District Positions will not be filled:
 - Director of HR
 - Director of Operations
- Curriculum and instruction will be impacted

For the end of this year, they are looking at an estimated \$2M surplus. Dr. Semmel indicated these were from salary accounts, substitutes and paras, and a reduction in outplacements. The reduction in outplacements was not Covid related.

Dr. Semmel indicated he wanted to use the surplus to eliminate or reduce the special revenue account \$220,000 and the lunch account \$2.4 million for a total of \$2.6 million at the end of June. The BOE has not yet discussed this. Moving forward, Dr. Semmel indicated that he, Mr. Hendrickson and the BOE are not in favor of any deficit spending.

By unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Phyllis C. Collier

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Board of Finance Clerk