

**April 16, 2020**  
**Board of Finance and Finance Committee**  
**#2 Board of Education Budget Hearing**  
**2020-2021**

**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. The Chair asked for a moment of silence for those suffering with the corona19 virus.

Members present / absent from the Board of Finance:

**PRESENT**

Michael Barker  
Elaine Hammers

**ABSENT**

Steve Choi  
Christine El Eris – Alternate

Marty Isaac  
Lainie McHugh  
Paul Timpanelli  
Vincent DeGennaro – Alternate

Marc Mascola – Alternate

The Finance Committee did not have a quorum; however, Dawn Cantafio and Mary Isaac attended.

**Also present:**

First Selectman Vicki Tesoro; Maria Pires, Finance Director; Kathleen McGannon, Chief Administrative Officer; Cynthia Katske, Chief Administrative Officer, Ralph Iassogna, Acting Superintendent of Schools; Allan Cameron, Interim Business Manager; Dr. Jonathan Budd, Assistant Superintendent; Daniel Schopick, Esq., Town Attorney

Assistant Superintendent Ralph Iassogna opened the meeting with a recap of the present situation with the Board of Education request.

He indicated the difference between the BOE's request of 4.56% and the First Selectman's 3.0% is approximately 1.56% or \$1,658,798, representing the shortfall from the previous 2019-2020 budget.

There is growing concern on the BOE's part that the impact of the COVID-19 will affect every town's budget, if revenue projections do not meet expectations. We hope with potential help to the town from FEMA, HHS, or the State, we will not be penalized and will receive additional revenue to meet this tough challenge.

He went on to add that these other Towns/cities did not develop their 2020-21 budget while dealing with a 2.0 million dollar 2019-20 budget shortfall. We were fortunate that we were able to overcome this issue and develop a budget that would allow us to make up the deficit and complete the 2020-2021 school year without needing to request a \$1m supplemental appropriation.

He went on to discuss how this was achieved through judicious adjustments, prudent choices, staff restructuring, administrative eliminations, budget freezes and reduced school days. But our budget did increase above what we would have liked due to the following:

- Salaries/Benefits – 85% of total budget
- Special Education
  - Outplacement Costs
  - Paraprofessional Surge
  - SRP Teachers
- Increased Enrollment – 46 Students

• Federal Minimum Wage Increase of \$1.00	\$151,000
• Reserve for Negotiations – (Paras and other contractual requirements)	\$818,286
• Transportation Increase	\$450,000
• Increased State mandated graduation requirements in Art and STEM (additional 2.0 teachers)	\$160,000

As discussed at the last meeting, serious cuts have already been made to reduce the request to 4.56%. In addition, he added that a further 1.56% reduction will seriously impact the system; however, they have compiled the following list of additional areas that they will review for further reduction:

- Paraprofessional Support
- Gifted Program
- Middle School and THS Clubs/Activities
- Use of Buildings for After School/Night Meetings
- Freshmen Sports
- Elementary/THS class size
- Custodial
- Increase Pay to Participate Fees (\$85 - \$100)
- Maintenance
- THS Parking Space Fee
- Secretaries
- Technology

He assured the Board that his team will continue to monitor and review the financial situation and make adjustments where appropriate. He also went on to add the first priority would be to limit any reduction in positions that directly impact contact with the students, are linked to Federal/State mandates and those that will meet the social, academic and emotional needs of our students.

By unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Phyllis C. Collier  
Board of Finance Clerk