

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2012**

ATTENDANCE: Jack Chiaramonte, Chair; Glenn Iannaccone, Susan Hamilton, Steve Colarossi, Sue Haynie, Jody Bishop-Pullan; Migdalia Rivas; Erin Halsey (8:10 pm)

STAFF: Dr. Susan Marks, Superintendent

Call to Order

Mr. Chiaramonte called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. and led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

Mr. Chiaramonte asked for any individuals who signed up to speak to state their name, address or affiliation and to limit questions or comments to three minutes in length.

Note: Comments by the various speakers are summarized and are not verbatim.

1. **Karen Ham**, 83B Soundview Avenue, Norwalk, stated that she was a parent of a sophomore at Brien McMahon High School, and after her daughter's first two years of high school is saddened to hear of the potential elimination of the swim program. She added that she fears that her daughter is at risk of losing the one element of motivation that keeps her engaged in high school. She stated that she hopes the Board can find ways to continue to support the athletics programs and suggested an alternative as "pay-to-play" for the programs.

2. **Nancy Wargo**, Calvary Road, Norwalk, stated that she represents 150 students who are swimmers that now clock between 18-24 hours of swimming a week with practice and meets. She stated that she has done research on other surrounding towns such as Shelton and Darien that have sustained the co-op teams as ones that provide students a path to college swim opportunities, and asked the Board to keep the athletic programs in consideration when approving the budgets. She stated that as the proposed budget cut is one that directly affects the students in the co-op swim program, and added that parent fundraising efforts are difficult to sustain the costs involved with the program.

3. **June Han Waldecker**, introduced herself as a teacher, First Grade, at Rowayton Elementary School, and stated that the roles of early intervention aides are crucial and has been a proven formula of success of the EIT program. She added that there is beneficial data for future instruction plans and these aides are a valuable extension of teacher instruction. She added that these positions should be maintained, she urges the Board to strongly consider not cutting the EIT program.

4. **Ms. Shannon Tchkotoua**, 2 Old Field Road, Rowayton, stated that she is co-president of the Rowayton School PTA and was here to speak on the proposed elimination of special education funding and to highlight this desperate budget situation where seven schools will not receive Title 1 funds. She applauded both the principal and assistant principal at Rowayton School, as being highly qualified and valuable administrators that are held in high regard with making significant improvements at Rowayton Elementary School.. She stated that in particular, she wanted to acknowledge the work of First Grade aides and described them as highly qualified and listed their accomplishments and value as ELL learners, co-teachers, CMT resources with literacy programs that have addressed closing the achievement gap, and have a critical role in data driven contributors to elementary school education. . She added that these positions should be maintained, she urges the Board to strongly consider not cutting the positions.

Ms. Tchkotoua added that the academic driven programs are much close to her heart, as it is equally important that students be given the opportunity to be challenged, as it is to provide special education for learning disabilities. She added that it is vital that both ends of the educational spectrum be addressed with programs that teach and reach students that not only address but reach above and beyond their ability with challenging curriculum. She added a statement to urge the administration and Board members to avoid cuts of this nature and to focus on providing appropriate and sustaining educational programs for all children.

5. **Lisa Lenskold**, President, PTO Council, stated that she applauds the collaboration by the Board and the Finance Department and everyone involved with the non-recommended budget, but she strongly encourages examination of alternatives, as there is no magic surplus. She added that the future of the community is at stake if the education budget cannot accomplish the initiatives so desperately needed to address the achievement gap. She stated that it is their mission to create an environment of accountability for the many stakeholders with the Norwalk Public Schools, to establish leadership to raise standards of education, improve the opportunities for professional development for teachers along with open dialogue with administration and the Board of Education. She is hoping to have public attend workshops aimed at a plan to demystify the confounding and lengthy process that results in the operating budget for Norwalk Public Schools, and, the community should have the chance to raise questions and concerns with officials.

6. **Suzanne Brown Koroshetz**, 21 Ravenwood Road, Norwalk, and Principal of Brien McMahon High School, introduced herself as a parent with a vested interest in the community having children that were 2003 and 2006 graduates of BMHS. She thanked Dr. Marks and the budget committee for all their endless hours and work with the non-recommended budget, and hopes the areas of School to Career and removal of two high school housemaster positions be reinstated. She gave an overview of her background as a Math Teacher and stated that the students will suffer with their education standards if such positions are not maintained. She urged the administration and Board members to avoid cuts of this nature and to focus on providing appropriate and sustaining educational programs for all children so that students of 2011 can have the same standards as 2003 and 2006.

7. **Lauren Rosato**, Director of the Norwalk Education Foundation, NEF, and active parent in the Norwalk Public Schools, stated that she wanted to advocate the position of IT staff Developer to address the IT resources needed to acquire donations from corporations and the private sector. She referred to page 5, paragraph 3 of the budget presentation and stated while the position removal would save \$85,000 it jeopardizes that amount tri-fold and dismantles ten years of training and mandatory CEU training. She elaborated on the far reaching impact of the budget cuts, and asked the Board to carefully examine the budgeted items and reinstate the areas in line with meeting the instructional goals of the district. She provided a written copy of her statements to the Board.

8. **Dr. Lynne Moore**, Principal of West Rocks Middle School, stated that she is here, once again, to express the same sentiment as prior years, and not this year with a devastating 2% increase on top of a zero increase. She reviewed the past history on the union coalition that had negotiated for implementation the Health Savings Plan in January 2010 which eight months earlier than planned which resulted in significant additional savings, and added that they have stepped up and have offered to meet the reconciliation with concessions. She stated that she believes that hard work with reconciling the budget and the difficult cuts that they have been asked to make, again with no new initiatives is devastating to the district. She stated that the Board of Estimate and Taxation have once again blamed public employees of the district with scare tactics of property tax increases and property values that will suffer. She stated that it is our mission to create an environment of accountability for the many stakeholders with the Norwalk Public Schools, to establish leadership to raise standards of education, improve the opportunities for professional development for teachers along with open dialogue with administration and the Board of Education. She said that behalf of the district she wanted to thank Dr. Cook for the job he has done during his assignment as Interim CFO, and said they truly appreciate his professional manner in which he embraced his position. She added that moving forward to the 2010-11 Budget, and that she hopes to have the workshop for parents. She stated that parents are ready to support the budget necessary to provide the level of education that Norwalk needs to meet state standards. She stated that there needs to be community forums that clearly state the need for involvement by stakeholders and she is disappointed that the BOE has not "listened" and would like to know how they can weigh in on the decisions at hand. She added that community stakeholders play a vital role with educational direction and the mission statement has to evolve around the input provided by the community, and to let the Common Council members know that their support is vital.

9. **Lynn Massey**, 36 Meeker Court, introduced herself as an active parent in the Norwalk Public Schools having been PTO Council President, and current co-president of the BMHS Parents Club. She echoed the comments made by other public participants and stated that she supports Dr Marks and the City is fortunate to have a mayor that is an active supporter of the schools. She stated that her objective can be best summarized by saying, that we love our schools and our charge is to provide the best possible education for our children. She stated that she does take exception to the statements made in the Hour newspaper as it relates to public officials being to blame for the state of the budget, and she asked that the Board to work with the NFT to negotiate a budget that accomplishes the goals of the Norwalk Public Schools for the education of our children.

10. **Anton Schuchak**, 350 Main Avenue, Norwalk, thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the problems with the school system last month and for being able to have his voice heard and his rights respected.

11. **Kirstin Embrogh**, stated that she was a graduate of Norwalk High School and is now a college student majoring in Biology and wanted to share the importance of the school to Career program that helped both she and her brother. She spoke about the opportunity she had to job shadow with the Nursing program at Norwalk Hospital and how this valuable experience helped her have the added extra push to secure internships. She stated that eliminating the STC positions present an added burden on the “already spread too thin” roles of the guidance counselors.

12. **Tony Santa Maria**, 36 West Avenue, Norwalk, stated that the system is failing our kids and especially those identified as special education, and he is tired of the abuse he has received from the administrators at Brien McMahon. He stated that they do not communicate with him in a positive manner, and only call him when one of his children is being suspended. He stated that he has had two years of meetings and is always requesting their involvement and help for this children, and they fail to recognize him, and one again, he is here without a voice and no rights, and can no longer accept the lack of response to his request for information and the unkind treatment he receives from Brien McMahon High School. He stated that Mrs. Michailidis was mean and unprofessional to him and had him escorted out of the building when he reacted to missing information he had repeatedly asked for this from the school. He added that the time is now to stop this bias treatment of him and his children. He stated that his son has gone through high school without being able to read, and his children are bullied and picked on by other students. He provided copies of a letter received from the ROTC teacher at BMHS, and re-stated that he is here without a voice and no rights, and can no longer accept the lack of response to his request for information and the unkind treatment he receives from Brien McMahon High School. He stated that staff members are continually difficult, mean and unprofessional to him. He feels it is within his rights to get copies of the PPT's and he just cannot understand how this can continue to go on and it has to stop, and that the Norwalk Public Schools is unfair and biased in their approach to parents, and added that the Board is racist and the fact that there are no blacks on the board is an example of bias and discrimination.

Mr. Chiaramonte asked if there was anyone else wishing to make a public comment, and hearing none, he closed the Public Comments portion of the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Marks announced that January 17, 2011 marks the 25th anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday observance, and referred to the flyer the Norwalk Public Schools' annual citywide celebration. She asked members to please share this with students, family and friends, and she gave a historical review of the program significance.

She added that this year's theme is: "Sustaining The Legacy Of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." and added that she urges and hopes that parents and members of the community will consider participating or attending this event.

Presentation of 2011-12 Operating Budget

Dr. Marks stated that in view of her hopes and dreams for Norwalk, as she accepted the honor of being selected to be the Superintendent of Norwalk Public Schools, was to take a good district and make it great. She stated that the 2011-12 Operating Budget School has been prepared by a committee of dedicated members and she acknowledged those present and asked them to stand to be recognized for their efforts. She provided an overview that this budget represents a 3.32% operating budget increase that includes no new positions or initiatives, along with the recovery of 2.1 million dollars of the Federal Stimulus funds, 1.4 million dollars in state funds, employee negotiated agreements, health benefit costs and special education mandated costs. She added, that in order to deliver a fiscally responsible budget, the 2011-2012 operating budget includes significant reductions at all levels of the school system including the schools that will critically impact our instructional and extracurricular programs.

Dr. Marks stated that her recommendation begins the budget process amidst the many uncertainties surrounding the financial situation in Norwalk and the state of Connecticut, and realizes that all of the very difficult sacrifices that have been made. She added that this is a community that values education and understands that a strong school system is essential to our future, and wants to acknowledge everyone involved for their work on behalf of our students, and she thanked all those involved for a truly collaborative partnership with the NFT, NASA, NFEP and the staff who have reviewed, analyzed every element, line by line. She added that she also wants to acknowledge the many foundations, non-profit organizations and private foundations that invest in our school system, and looks forward to advocating not just for this budget, but for our students.

Dr Marks stated that these reductions are painful and if there are areas of the budget that are put back, something will have to come out in its place, like rearranging furniture. She stated that she thanks the parents who have come out tonight, and she agrees with everything that has been said, that these reductions are not good for the students.

Dr. Marks then reviewed the power-point presentation of the 2011-12 Operating Budget, and asked for questions to be held to be addressed following the presentation..

She concluded that the upcoming work session on January 6 will be devoted to the budget review process.

ACTIONS

Approval of Budget Transfers

Mr. Colarossi asked about the transfer for overtime, and Dr. Marks asked Mrs. Vaccarella to explain the rationale for the transfer. Ms. Vaccarella explained that this transfer was needed to cover overtime as requested by Ms. Reilly, Principal, who was in attendance and stated that these transfer funds were need to cover support services.

- ** MR. IANNACONE MOTIONED TO APPROVE BUDGET TRANSFERS AS LISTED ON SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, AS FOLLOWS:
BE IT RESOLVED, UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVE THE 2010-11 BUDGET TRANSFERS FOR ROWAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, FROM PRINCIPAL'S ACCOUNT TO OVERTIME, AS PRESENTED.**
- ** MS. HAYNIE SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Discussion of 2011-12 Operating Budget

Ms. Rivas asked if the board member questions would be answered, and Dr. Marks replied that the staff is working very hard to compile all the questions with answers. Ms. Rivas stated that as part of the due diligence of the Board, it is absolutely critical to have the questions addressed so that the public can see how the Board is responding to the budget, especially in view of the cuts. Dr. Marks restated that she is hopeful that the questions and answers will be posted on the website by tomorrow.

Ms. Haynie stated that she felt it was good to have the questions stated in a format that would be clear to follow as a compilation of all the questions with answers.

Mr. Colarossi asked if, as a framework, to have the itemization of the cash reserves or excesses, and an overview of the anticipated state revenues included, along with a breakdown of ECS job funds, priority schools, grants reallocations, Title 2A and ELL.

Ms. Haynie added that clarification of debits and credits of the grants would be useful to understand and explain to the public what is coming and what replaces those funds.

Ms. Rivas asked about Title 6 funds and a staff member from the audience replied that a summary of all ECS job funds would be included. Ms. Rivas clarified her request to include, priority schools, grants reallocations, Title 2A and ELL with a description of how acquired and the date, and eligibility of uses.

Ms. Rivas asked to have all the questions outlined to be addressed and to include translation arrangements similar to the United Nations with Spanish and French/Creole translators present. She added that it was important that all members of the public be able to understand the budget process, and she stressed the importance of having these bi-lingual translations available.

Ms. Bishop-Pullan asked how much attention has been given to the professional and staff equity and feedback from the schools, especially those hit hardest by the reductions. Dr. Marks replied that the committee has looked at the size of the schools relative to staffing and programs impacted.

Ms. Rivas asked about the city audit process and if such an audit could be done with the program grant funds as outlined in this budget recommendation. Ms. Bishop-Pullan added that she is concerned with this process of presenting a budget that is “non” recommended and wants to review with the Common Council to have some reassurance of workable solutions.

Ms. Rivas asked about the out of district placement students that are recommended to be returned to the district, and Dr. Marks asked Mr. Daddona to come forward to address the issue.

Mr. Daddona stated that it is a very complex issue with state mandates where students who cannot be serviced in Norwalk are placed out of district could cost the district \$50,000 per student. Ms. Haynie asked for an analysis of the cost effectiveness of the quality of out-placing students versus the value of in-house education. A discussion ensued relative to the out of district policies, and Ms. Rivas stated that there are many students that cannot be adequately educated to meet their complex special needs. Dr. Marks added that there is a level of professional development required for Behavioral Specialists required to support the inclusion and the required qualifications to meet the needs of those students.

Mayor Moccia stated that he is very sensitive to the budget issues, and wanted to assure the Board and members of the public that Norwalk is not alone in this financial struggle that other cities are faced with. He provided comparisons with cities such as Greenwich, and Stamford with the percentage of budget increases and stated that Norwalk is not unique with the matters faced. He added that it was important to clarify a misquoted statement from the BET meeting, that he does not blame City employees for this budget crisis. He added that there needs to be a collaborative effort for all parties to come to the table to share the sacrifice and work on the recommended budget.

Mr. Chiamonte reminded everyone that this is the third budget crisis year, and it is getting worse with more and more cuts and less stimulus and state funds. He added that he is also a parent and we all want what is best for our children and we have to find ways to work together.

Committee/Representative Reports

Finance Committee - Mr. Colarossi said that Finance Committee meeting on Thursday, January 6 would be scheduled as a special meeting and budget work session, as announced by Dr. Marks. He added that at Thursday’s budget workshop, all board Members are encouraged to attend to address the questions and answers.

Board Member Announcements

Ms. Hamilton stated that she had the pleasure of attending the Senator’s Community Foundation Candy Necklace award ceremony and commended them for the level of dedication and commitment that this group of young people has to fight their cause of preventing child abuse and human trafficking.

Ms. Halsey announced that the Norwalk High Marching Bears received \$5,000 award from MBI and thanked all those who voted in support of the NHS Band, and congratulated them on their achievement and award of distinction for Norwalk.

VII. Executive Session

- ** **MR. IANNACONE MOTIONED TO ENTER EXECUIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS RECORDS, REPORTS, AND STATEMENTS OF STRATEGY OR NEGOTIATIONS WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND POSSIBLE ACTION – UNITED FEDERATION OF TECHNICIANS, LOCAL 72 SUPPORT, AFSA, CFSA, AFL-CIO.**
- ** **MS. RIVAS SECONDED**
- ** **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting went into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. and reconvened back into public session at 10:30 p.m.

Mr. Iannaccone stated that there were no votes taken during Executive Session.

- ** **MR. IANNACONE MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:
RESOLVED, UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVE THE NEGOTIATIONS IN SUPPORT OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WITH – UNITED FEDERATION OF TECHNICIANS, LOCAL 72 SUPPORT, AFSA, CFSA, AFL-CIO. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, SUSAN F. MARKS, TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO FINALIZE NEGOTIATIONS.**
- ** **MS. HAYNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

- ** **MS. HAYNIE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** **MR. COLAROSSO SECONDED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knox
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2012**

ATTENDANCE: Jack Chiamonte, Chairman; Steve Colarossi, Sue Haynie, Artie Kassimis, Michael Lyons, Rosa Murray.

STAFF: Dr. Susan Marks, Superintendent;
Elio Longo, Chief Financial Officer.

Call to Order

Mr. Chiamonte called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m. and led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

Mr. Chiamonte stated that no one had signed up for public comments and asked if any members of the audience wished to speak, and hearing none stated that the Public Comments segment of the meeting was closed at 8:00 p.m.

ACTIONS

Approval of Personnel

Mr. Colarossi requested to discuss the actions as separate items:

RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT:

Pamela Augustine-Jefferson - Instructional Specialist - Effective 01/23/12

Ms. Haynie stated that the Instructional specialist did not take the Foundations in Reading skills test, and as a matter of policy, the recommendation for appointment should not be approved until this is done. She added that this test is an important element in the hiring process that should be followed. Mr. Colarossi stated that this position is critical for school readiness and since the former Specialist left the position, there is a gap with these vital functions that has had to be filled by other administrators. He added that he fully supports the Superintendent's recommendation to have this Instructional Specialist in place. Dr. Marks added that it is a critical time for Kindergarten enrollment and upcoming orientations and the Early Childhood Instructional Specialist is a key position that is essential in that area in the Central Office.

- ** MS. MURRAY MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF PAMELA AUGUSTINE-JEFFERSON AS INSTRUCTIONAL SPECIALIST EFFECTIVE 01/23/12 AS RECOMMENDED**
- ** MR. COLAROSSO SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE VOTES IN FAVOR, ONE OPPOSED (HAYNIE) AND NO ABSTENTIONS.**

RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT:

DiCerbo, Joanna – Ponus Ridge – Guidance Counselor - Eff: 01/03/12

Mr. Colarossi stated that while he does not doubt the qualifications of the candidate, he will abstain from approval because the effective date of hire is 1/3/12 which was last week. He added this was not in the actions for December meeting or even last week's meeting and that according to policy the Board must approve all recommendations prior to hiring. In this case the recommendation for appointment is just now coming for approval, which is not in accordance with policy. He stressed the importance of following procedures and this had occurred before over the summer, and although there may have been extenuating circumstances the policies have to be held true to practice.

Dr. Marks replied that there were vacations during the holidays and that this was an administrative error. She explained that over the summer this did occur, but that was a misunderstanding, and she will work with H.R. to avoid future oversights.

Ms. Murray asked about the hiring freeze and asked for clarification of hiring through the waiver process. Dr. Marks replied that there are situations that are evaluated based upon the school priorities and gave the example of Briggs High School that had lost a teacher through an internal transfer and the waiver process was weighed and approved. She asked Mr. Longo to expand on this waiver process and he stated that there is administrative review of situations where it is better to incur an expense rather than jeopardize mandated programs. He explained that these are evaluated as a collective decision based upon the needs of the district that require the sign-off of a waiver. Dr. Marks added that it was important to support the needs of the district in particular where coverage is critical and to weigh in and manage the cost savings versus approval of positions.

- ** MR. LOYNS MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JOANNA DICERBO, PONUS RIDGE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR EFF: 01/03/12 AS RECOMMENDED.**
- ** MS. HAYNIE SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE VOTES IN FAVOR, ONE OPPOSED (KASSIMIS) AND TWO ABSTENTIONS (COLAROSSO, MURRAY).**

Request for Ext. Mini Child-Rearing Leave – Enea, Francesca Eff: Remainder 2011-12.

- ** MR. KASSIMIS MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR EXT. MINI CHILD-REARING LEAVE FOR FRANCESCA ENEA EFFECTIVE THE REMAINDER OF 2011/12.
- ** MR. COLAROSSİ SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Approval of 2012-13 Local Operating Budget

Mr. Colarossi stated that the Finance Committee has reviewed the Superintendent's proposed budget and that in view of the current economic environment with the City they recognize there is a tremendous burden on our taxpayers. He stated that while there may be further considerations, they tried to balance the needs of the district with the burden of the tax increase that would be required of the City and not compromise the educational programs. He presented the list of recommended changes to the budget, read each line, and asked that the chart be incorporated into the minutes as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Object</u>	<u>Expenditure Proposed</u>	<u>Reduction</u>	<u>Caucus</u>	<u>Explanation Detail</u>
<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>from Supt's</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Notes</u>	
			<u>Budget</u>			
Supt	51	301	Conferences	10,325	4,000	The caucus did not reach any
		330	Professional Tech. Services	22,500.00	8,000.00	consensus on the comments
		331	Legal fees	234,000.00	10,000.00	but agreed to the general
		810	Dues	33,329.00	21,000.00	need for the specific cuts <i>This amount represents CAFE dues</i>
Administrative Operations	52	112	Salary of COO	175,993.00	2,600	<i>Raise removed</i>
Human Resources	53	101	Long term Teacher substitutes	702,953.00	10,000.00	
		118	Daily teacher substitutes	820,500.00	18,000.00	
		128	Substitutes for non-certified staff	260,000.00	40,000.00	
Instruction	54	112	Asst. Supt. Salary	192,151.00	10,000.00	<i>The Asst. Supt. has agreed to continue his deferral and furlough to reduce current year salary outlay; his gross salary is unchanged from last year (\$192,151); however, the net cost to the District will be \$182,151.</i>
		114	Directors	432,449.00	175,000.00	<i>This amount would be replaced by Title IIA funds</i>
		137	Adult Ed salaries	221,108.00	30,000.00	
		611	Instruction supplies	144,337.00	3,000.00	
		645	Textbooks	186,198.00	38,400.00	<i>Purchase of textbooks for Common Core can be deferred</i>

Location # Object Expenditure Proposed Reduction Caucus Explanation Detail
Dept. Budget Code from Supt's Amount Notes
Budget

Human Relations	55	126	Salary of HR Officer	95,572.00	2,330.00		Removes raise because ESG does not have a contract for 2012-2013.
Pupil Personnel Services	56	301	Attendance	14,000.00	10,000.00		
		330	Professional Services	2,665,210.00	150,000.00		
		580	Travel	21,500.00	8,600.00		No change from current year.
		331	Legal fees	150,000.00	30,000.00		
Finance	57	117	Reserve Teachers	182,832.00	182,832.00		
		126	Salaries	253,113.00	62,904.00		Move purchasing agent back into food services budget
		212	Fringe benefits	30,077,295.00	72,000.00		Reduce three family plan insurance packages to correspond with elimination of three reserve teachers
		212	Fringe benefits	30,077,295.00	300,000.00		Placeholder reduction to account for renegotiation of insurance contract and savings from beneficiary audit (1% reduction)
		614	Postage	134,000.00	24,000.00		
		730	Furniture	30,000.00	20,000.00		Awaiting inventory to determine actual need
Information Technology	58	430	Repairs and Maintenance	484,352.00	10,000.00		Increase still allocated for repairs and licensing
Facilities	60				256,000.00		This object code has increased by 8.7% (\$606,297) A five percent increase would allow for \$350,000 and save 256,000 over general increase
					1,498,666		

Mr. Colarossi summarized that the changes and stated that they represent a total of \$1,498,666 that brings the total recommended budget request to \$165,419,100 which is a 6.86% increase over 2011-12.

Mr. Colarossi stated that this \$165.4 million request includes reductions in non-controversial areas, as identified by the Republican caucus. He added that in view of the current economic environment with the City they recognize there is a tremendous burden on our taxpayers. He stated that while there may be further considerations, they tried to balance the needs of the district with the burden of the tax increase that would be required of the City and not compromise the educational programs.

- ** MR. COLAROSSİ MOTİONED TO APPROVE THE REDUCTIONS OF \$1,498,666 TO THE TOTAL RECOMMENDED BUDGET REQUEST.
- ** MR. KASSİMİS SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE VOTES IN FAVOR, ONE OPPOSED (HAYNIE) AND NO ABSTENTIONS.

Ms. Murray clarified that the changes are to be reflected to the budget book as presented, and Mr. Chiaramonte called for a vote to the proposed budget.

- ** MR. COLAROSSO MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:
RESOLVED, UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES THE ATTACHED 2012-13 LOCAL OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$165,419,100.**
- ** MR. KASSIMIS SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Information and Reports

Discussion regarding Re-Designation of Committees:

Re-designation of "Curriculum Committee" as "Curriculum and Instruction Committee"

Mr. Lyons presented the proposed re-designation and explained that this is to clarify the definition of the Committee to encompass the instructional elements of curriculum review. He added that this provides enhanced effectiveness of curriculum review in line with Common Core Standards.

Re-designation of "Negotiations Committee" as "Negotiations and Personnel Committee"

Mr. Lyons explained that this re-designation would enhance the functions similar to the process of vetting matters through the Finance Committee and Policy Committees. He gave the example of tonight's personnel recommendations and stated that a review of the effective date could be caught in Committee and issues of policy could be done on a preliminary investigation before moving on to action of the full Board. He added that the intention is to provide a managerial overview to make the Board approval more efficient and less cumbersome.

Ms. Murray stated that she was concerned that this adds another layer of approvals in the process and removes a primary function of the full Board. Mr. Lyons replied that by no means does it displace the Board, as the approval process remains the same; it merely adds a more comprehensive review process and allows more thorough analysis.

Mr. Lyons stated that he had done research on municipalities that have such committee structure and read a list of cities that included Waterbury, Hartford, Stamford, Greenwich and others. He added that re-designating the committee to include personnel overview does not prevent critical input for statutory input on administrative hiring of positions such as Principals or Instructional Specialists.

Dr. Marks added that based on her experience in other districts, many factors are brought to the background check and interview criteria for positions that are interviewed for by the Board. She added that she would be very interested in seeing how the other cities mentioned outline the role of these committees to meet the H.R. needs of the district with a similar system of stakeholder groups. Dr. Marks added that in many cases a “Board Paper” is prepared for interviewing candidates and this may be appropriate and helpful to add to the review process.

Ms. Murray asked for more information on how this would impact the process of the diversity hiring procedures, and asked the administration to reply on how this will be handled through Human Resources.

Committee/Representative Reports

Policy Committee: Mr. Colarossi stated that the Policy Committee will meet to discuss the policy on advertising and will work the City departments such as Zoning. He added that Mike Mocciae with Parks & Recreation is very supportive and the Council is eager to partner with the district on this. He stated there will be a special meeting on January 24 with students from the Center for Youth Leadership on bullying.

Finance Committee: Mr. Colarossi stated that they will meet tomorrow evening for a review of Special Education and grants and more ongoing questions on the 2012-13 recommended budget. He noted that he will have an estimated timeframe for the approval process with the City.

Curriculum Committee: Mr. Lyons stated that the January 12 meeting is set to review Common Core Standards, the impact on the district, and the upcoming curriculum audit.

Board Member Announcements

Ms. Murray reminded everyone about the programs for Dr. Martin Luther King Day, and stressed that she was available to answer any questions about the celebrations.

Mr. Chiamonte reminded everyone to please fill out the Lighthouse surveys.

Adjournment

**** MR. LYONS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** MS. HAYNIE SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Knox,
Telesco Secretarial Services

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT**

Board Meeting Date: 1/17/12

Action Required By (date): 1/17/12

Number on Agenda: V.B.

Action Item Information Item (check one)

Agenda Title:

Approval of Budget Transfers

Background

Cost (if applicable): _____

Funding Source: _____

Beginning Date of Program or Project (if applicable): _____

Ending Date of Program of Project (if applicable): _____

Options (if applicable):

Recommendation:

**Resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that
the Board of Education approve the attached Budget Transfers**

Attachment: Yes No (check one)

Submitted by: Superintendent's Office Department: _____

2011 - 2012 BUDGET TRANSFERS - Board of Education Meeting on January 17, 2012

Board

<p>From: NHS Principal - Textbooks Hardcover</p> <p>ORG. CODE OBJECT PROJ.</p> <p>1 0 5 2 4 1 0 0 6 4 1 0 5</p> <p>College Board Membership fee for 2011-2012. Vendor: College Board</p>		<p>To: NHS Principal - Dues, Fees & Memberships</p> <p>ORG. CODE OBJECT PROJ.</p> <p>1 0 5 2 4 1 0 0 8 1 0 0 5</p> <p>AMOUNT</p> <p> 3 1 5 . 0 0</p>	
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