

**Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, CT
Approved Minutes
Fiscal Committee Meeting
Thursday January 14, 2010**

Members Present: Mary Kortmann, Fiscal Committee Chair
Cheryl Trudon, Fiscal Committee Member
Mark Malcolm, Fiscal Committee Member

Also Present: Dr. Donna Bernard, Superintendent of Schools
Katie Baumgartner, Payroll, Board of Education

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

I. Approve Fiscal Minutes from December 10, 2009 Meeting

Motion: To approve the minutes from December 10, 2009 meeting.

By: Mark Malcolm Seconded: Mary Kortmann

Discussion:

Mary Kortmann asked for the following change on page 3 of 6, bottom paragraph, to read:
Sherry Holmes explained they are the ARRA Stabilization Grants for Town ECS.

Motion passes with requested change.

II. Approve Fiscal Minutes from December 14, 2009 Meeting

Motion: To approve the minutes from December 14, 2009 meeting.

By: Mark Malcolm Seconded: Mary Kortmann

Discussion:

Mark Malcolm asked for the following change on page 2, 4th paragraph to read:

Mark Malcolm said the Board of Education needs help now, addressing this issue of excess costs that is currently impacting the principals' ability to operate.

Motion passes with requested change.

III. Encumbrance Reports for December 2009

Dr. Bernard read the memorandum on Expenditure Reports for Regular Budget and Grants-December 2009.

Mary Kortmann said the December minutes said the ARRA money would show up in January's reports. She said there is an encumbrance in the Grant Report showing an encumbrance of approximately \$500,000. Dr. Bernard said Sherry Holmes would be the only one who knows how the ARRA money was integrated. K. Baumgartner said Sherry wanted to wait until the January reports, to show the ARRA money. C. Trudon said it would show the people paid to date. M. Kortmann said the ARRA money shows up as a grant, because it is federal money. M. Kortmann said there was supposed to be an adjustment to salaries for the beginning of the year.

Mary Kortmann said the ARRA encumbered amount is \$530,000. M. Kortmann thought we were supposed to only spend half of that per year.

Mary Kortmann asked about the status of the unemployment compensation account. She wants to know what the unemployment figures will be for the future, since the federal government extended the length of time an employee can collect. M. Kortmann wants to transfer money into the unemployment amounts by making a budget transfer in the next Fiscal Committee meeting, in February.

Dr. Bernard discussed vacancy savings and the retirement program.

Mary Kortmann said the utilities expense account is low right now, because we get large dollar amount of utility bills in chunks. She asked when we last filled our tanks.

Mark Malcolm mentioned the utility reports that Paul Noel brought to last month's meeting. He asked if Paul could give the Fiscal Committee up to the minute reports on the utility accounts. Mary Kortmann said the Board of Education usually gets a projection report in January for the rest of the year. M. Kortmann said that Sherry Holmes and Paul Noel complete this report for the end of January.

Mark Malcolm asked if part of the \$43,000 pulled from salaries was from Special Education. He asked if this is from overall salaries. He asked if this was part of the ARRA money.

Mary Kortmann asked why GHR instructional supplies line item is under by \$5,400. She said GHR spent \$4,600 last month. She said even though the total district instructional supply line item looks alright, she questioned GHR.

Mary Kortmann brought up the Tuition VO Ag CHS line item. She said we are down \$25,000 in this line item. Dr. Bernard said this includes magnet schools.

There was a discussion about magnet schools. Mary Kortmann asked if any exit interviews were done to find out why students leave.

IV. Excess Cost Calculation Report for December 2009

Mary Kortmann asked if the DCF Placed students come with their own IEP and if we have anything to say about the IEP. Dr. Bernard said she spoke to Kevin about the 23% shortage of excess cost money and who should pay for the IEP's. He said it has never been tested and to have the town's lawyer research it. M. Kortmann said if we cannot control the IEP, and we want to be smart with our money, analyzing our own kids, we would come up with the least cost for an appropriate education for the student. M. Kortmann said if the student is the responsibility of the State; the State should fund the entire amount.

Dr. Bernard said she would ask Judith Richard how many students have non-controlled, outside controlled IEP's that we are short 23% funding per student. There was discussion about non-controlled IEP students.

V. Budget Items

a. **Approve Memo to Town Council to increase appropriations for Medicaid and Tuition revenues received.**

The memo requests revenues for Medicaid, Woodstock Tuition, West Haven Tuition and Board of Education Services for the Blind. The committee agreed to present this to the town on January 28, 2010. Mary Kortmann asked about Medicaid. She said it is a reimbursement for expenses we have that Medicaid will pay for. She said in the last set of laws that were passed, coverage was added to the medical policy for autism. M. Kortmann asked if there was an additional Medicaid reimbursement for students that we can bill now, that we weren't able to bill before.

b. **Discuss readiness to request additional funds from Town Council to cover 23% less excess cost reimbursement.**

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle M. Bates, BOE Clerk

February 11, 2010

Approved