Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Special Board of Education Meeting
Approved Minutes of April 20, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.
Administration Building Conference Room

Attendance Taken at 7:30 p.m.:

Board Members Present:
William Oros, Chairman
Michael Sobol, Secretary
Mary Kortmann
Eugene Marchand
Mary Minor

Board Members Absent:
Jennifer Beausoleil, Vice-Chairman
Frank Infante

Administrators Present:
David J. Petrone, Superintendent of Schools
Robert Carroll, Director of Finance and Operations

Audience Members Present: Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology; Beth Giller, GHR Principal; Marybeth Moyer, CGS Principal; Todd Giansanti, PSSS Director; William Trudelle, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; Hannah Pietrantonio, Town Council Member; and parents from the CHS Music Boosters.

I. Call to Order
W. Oros called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag
W. Oros led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens
Cliff Stone (404 Woodmont Drive) said the school system was one of the reasons his family moved to Coventry. He noted how pleased he is with the schools. He said he is the President of the CHS Music Boosters and said he is here to provide support through the tough fiscal situation. He said he is here to advocate for the music programs. He said it is a strong program. He offered help and support to the Board.

IV. Old Business
IV.A. Discussion and possible VOTE: FY2018 Budget

W. Oros noted that the Town Council has voted to rescind the budget. He said there is some slight confusion as to what this means for the Board. He verified that the cut made originally by the Council to the Board’s budget is 1,233,860.
W. Oros added that the Town Council’s vote also included a delay to the Town Meeting and the Referendum vote.

M. Sobol noted that he was disappointed that the Council did not acknowledge that the Board took on additional special education expenses after the Board’s budget was submitted to the Council.

There was discussion regarding how the Council receives or does not receive “official” notifications. M. Kortmann verified they received the email with the information, but chose not to take it into consideration.

E. Marchand said he appreciated parents attending and showing support. He said the public concerns need to brought to the Town Council.

A motion was suggested regarding sending a notification to the Council of additional appropriations needed in special education. The motion was incomplete.

M. Kortmann asked for clarification on what budget line we are talking about. Mr. Petrone suggested the increase be noted as due to special education outplacements. The Board discussed this and agreed.

**MOTION:** Add to the agenda a vote on the special education outplacement costs  
By: E. Marchand  
Seconded: M. Sobol  
Result: Motion passes unanimously

**MOTION:** Authorize the Superintendent to officially notify the Town Council of an increase in appropriations due to special education outplacement costs  
By: E. Marchand  
Seconded: M. Sobol  
Result: Motion passes unanimously

The Board returned the discussion of how to handle the cut made by the Town Council. W. Oros thanked Mr. Petrone, Mr. Carroll, and the administration for the work they did to come up with recommended reductions.

Mr. Petrone said the district has been working diligently over the past few years to develop outstanding programs. He said everything has been done to increase efficiency in the district, there is no low hanging fruit.

Mr. Petrone said the administrators spent hours brainstorming and coming up with creative ideas to get to the number needed. He reviewed different levels of suggested reductions to the budget.

E. Marchand said he appreciates the effort that has been done. He reviewed the list and asked if staff would stay if part of their job was taken away. Mr. Petrone said the situation is state-wide, so there is a chance they may stay, but each position is different.

M. Kortmann asked to review the "known" reductions before the Board reviewed the different levels that address the $527,626.

The “known” items being reviewed are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>February</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$685,915</td>
<td>$853,147</td>
<td>$167,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition Public</td>
<td>$531,081</td>
<td>$642,846</td>
<td>$111,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess Cost Public</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$(357,964)</td>
<td>(357,964)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition Non-Public</td>
<td>$923,201</td>
<td>$1,094,086</td>
<td>$170,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess Cost Non-Public</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$(539,820)</td>
<td>(539,820)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities - Sewer</td>
<td>$40,932</td>
<td>$40,462</td>
<td>(470)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heating Oil</td>
<td>$155,000</td>
<td>$151,645</td>
<td>(3,355)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance</td>
<td>$3,620,574</td>
<td>$3,388,348</td>
<td>(232,226)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mr. Carroll confirmed M. Kortmann's question.

The Board discussed various details of the recommended reductions, including FTEs, bus routes, magnet school tuition, technology software, and textbooks.

The Board asked to add to the "known" reductions the following items:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pension</td>
<td>$279,370</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diesel Fuel</td>
<td>$87,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$271,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ (8,125)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$83,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ (4,470)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This brings the total needed for further reductions to $377,706. The Board emphasized that additional cuts to address the $377K would be in cuts to staff.

The Board talked about recent actions by the Town Council.

M. Sobol said he appreciates the work that has been done by the Administration and he noted how it will not be easy going forward.

W. Oros said there will be time to continue to review numbers. He continued and said July 1 is a concern and how the budget will be handled, without an official figure.

M. Kortmann said she would like to officially notice the Town Council that we can get to a certain figure without cutting staff.

The Board agreed saying Mr. Petrone could add in that language to the letter going to the Town Council.

E. Marchand stressed how important it is to get this information out to parents.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

By: M. Sobol    Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: May 11, 2017