



Budget & Finance Subcommittee Meeting

April 04, 2018 5:30 PM
Board Meeting Room
Administrative Offices
137-B Glenwood Road
Clinton, CT 06413

Attendance Taken at 5:38 PM:

Present Board Members:

Erica Gelven
Sandy Luke
Todd Pozefsky (arrived at 5:44 PM)
Lois Ruggiero
Kimberly Russo

1. Call to Order

Discussion:

Administrators present were Superintendent Maryann O'Donnell, Assistant Superintendent Marco Famiglietti, and Business Manager Carolyn Dickey.

All participants recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Budget Adjustments

Discussion:

Superintendent O'Donnell gave an overview of transportation budget projections and the possibility of being underfunded. She also discussed the status of the fluctuating number of out-of-district special education placements and corresponding tuition.

The Superintendent distributed a list of potential cuts to achieve the requisite \$300,000 reduction. The subcommittee discussed the possible reconfiguration of academic teams at the middle school as a result of reducing two grade 7 teachers.

The subcommittee also reviewed other proposed cuts to after-hours programs at Pierson and Eliot, civics textbooks, and a clerical position in the business office. The Superintendent also discussed the proposal to eliminate the girl's high school swim team, and reduce utilities and Board of Education expenses. The Superintendent provided a response to a previously asked question regarding the number of students who indicated that they would not be attending The Morgan School after being promoted from Eliot Middle School. Currently the number of students is nine.

The Superintendent distributed a list of Morgan elective courses for the 2017-18 school year and also provided responses to other questions posed to her by Board of Education members at the previous subcommittee meeting.

The subcommittee discussed possible talking points to share with the public to describe the proposed cuts. The Superintendent stated that she would send a general message to district staff to share the proposed cuts and will visit with the middle school staff to discuss the proposed cuts in grade 7.

Board of Ed member Ruggiero stated that she reluctantly supported the Superintendent's proposed reductions.

The subcommittee also discussed additional cuts that might be necessary if the budget referendum fails. Items discussed included middle school athletics, reducing high school athletics, consideration of pay to play, and K-1 Spanish.

Board member Pozefsky stated that he believed that most members of the public would be surprised that the district has cut over 20 positions over the last two years.

The subcommittee also discussed the subject of reconfiguring building usage in the district over the next several years and its impact on budget considerations.

3. Transportation Update

Discussion:

Business Manager Dickey stated that she and the Superintendent are still negotiating with the vendor. Superintendent O'Donnell provided additional context regarding some of the negotiating areas.

4. General Updates

5. Adjournment

Discussion:

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm

Respectfully submitted by M. Famiglietti