

Town & City Councils/RTM/Board of Education Liaison Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2016 - 5:30 p.m.
School Administration Building, Room 11

Members Present: Kevin Trejo, Harry Watson, Karen Morton, Greg Grim, Lee White, Rosemary Robertson, Katrina Fitzgerald

Members Absent: Keith Hedrick, Lori Watrous, Conrad Heede, Andrew Ilvento, Jackie Massett, Mark Oefinger, Jay Weitlauf

Also Present: Mike Graner, Susan Austin, Sam Kilpatrick

Harry Watson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He noted that participation from the RTM and City Council has been lacking for some time.

1. Approval of the Minutes of October 5, 2016 - the minutes were accepted by unanimous consensus.
2. Budget - Mike Graner indicated he was compiling the budget to be presented to the Board of Education early January. After Board deliberations, the adjusted budget will go to the Town Manager the last Monday in February. Some teachers are indicating retirement (they have financial incentive to do so by January 15th). Early indicators show employee insurance costs going up.
3. School Facilities Update - There was a meeting with newly elected legislators last week. Two legislative bills need to pass; (1) Racial imbalance (for construction reimbursement rate 57% to 80%) and (2) Waiver for the cost of square footage reimbursement from \$450/sq. ft. Former State Representative Lenny Winkler has been a big help with the process.
4. Joint Efficiency Committee (BOE/Town Council) - They are meeting tonight at 6:30 p.m. Greg Grim stated they are comparing us to other districts which have some shared departments.
5. Magnet School Discussion - Mike Graner said they are reapplying for a grant (5 years \$500,000) to consider the two current middle schools to become magnet grammar schools, Arts/Humanity (CMS) and STEM (WSMS).
6. MM Parking Lot - Sam Kilpatrick reported the Town PW will do the engineering this winter once they hire a surveyor. There will be CIP money for this in the Board of Education budget next year.
7. Next Meeting Location - Harry Watson proposed posting a meeting schedule for all of 2017 to be held at the Administration Building in Room 11 at 5:30 p.m. on the following Wednesdays: February 1, April 5, June 7, August 2, October 4, and December 6. This shortened schedule for next year avoids holiday weeks, the beginning of July and September, and also election week in November.

8. Future Discussion Topics - No discussion.
9. Old Business
 - The Town Council will get a summary of the Administrators contract just agreed upon with the Board next week at the C.O.W.
 - The Town PW Department is currently helping the Board of Education resolve water drainage issues at Northeast Academy's playground.
 - Mentoring was discussed at an earlier meeting and Greg Grim handed out information that Electric Boat tutors many children in Southeastern Connecticut. This was passed onto Mike Graner to share with Board of Education staff.
10. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m. by unanimous consensus.