



Torrington Public Schools

SUSAN M. LUBOMSKI
SUPERINTENDENT

SUSAN B. FERGUSSON
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Budget Committee Meeting Wednesday, November 11, 2020, 7:00 PM 355 Migeon Ave.

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 7:04 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Mr. Maniccia, Mr. Eucalitto, Mr. Corey (Remote), Mr. Lafreniere (Teacher Rep.)
Also Present: Ms. Cappabianca, Ms. Depretis (Remote), Ms. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Ms. Todor (Remote), Ms. Richardson (Remote), Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Fergusson, Ms. Schulte, Mr. Arum, Mr. Barlow, Ms. Klimaszewski, Ms. Herold
3. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Mr. Corey. All in favor.
4. Approval of Minutes: Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Mr. Corey. All in favor.
5. Public Participation: None.
6. Discussion/Next Steps:
 - a. Monthly Financials: The surplus is reduced slightly this month. There is still a savings from sped tuition and transportation. Ms. Schulte presented a concern about sub rates and the challenge to fill these positions. If we increase our rate, it may help with the lack of subs. Also, we need to consider that the minimum wage is going to increase soon. Right now, we pay \$125.00 for emergency coverage when staff has to cover these absences each day. This is happening frequently. Ms. Cappabianca stated that maybe we can consider an emergency rate for this year, because we do not want to have to close schools due to the fact that we do not have enough staff coverage in the buildings. The committee came up with new recommendation for new rates: \$115.00 for daily subs - \$125.00 (\$125.00 for those with certification) for building subs – \$13.00/hour for para sub. Ms. Ferguson asked, “Can we offer benefits to our buildings subs?” Mr. Arum stated that “It would increase our percentage and we will be paying more for the benefits

and if they have claims it will increase it further.” Ms. Schulte that Kelly Services provides benefits and they still are having a tough time finding people. Each school has 1 or 2 building subs, but we need more. The committee agreed to have a BOE Special meeting on Friday the 13th at 5:00 P.M. to vote on substitute pay increase. The date was set to provide a decision before the job fair the following Tuesday.

- b. COVID-19 Expenses – The district received the COVID grant funds today. The district may not need as many masks as anticipated. Next month, Mr. Arum will have a better idea of the PPE costs. Mr. Maniccia asked how are we doing on cleaning supplies? “We are doing well – we purchased efficient products and we have plenty.” The Board of Finance receives a copy of our COVID-19 expenses every month.
 - c. Capital Plan Review – Discussed at the Facilities and Technology Sub Committee Meeting. The Capital Plan is due to the City by December 30th. It will be presented at the next Budget meeting and the Board Meeting in December.
 - d. Technology Plan Review – Discussed at the Facilities and Technology Sub Committee Meeting. The district needs to allocate funding for technology each year.
 - e. Windows Project Update – Mr. Arum gave a list to the committee of all the steps that the State requires us to do for a Building Grant Application Process. Hopefully, the district will complete these preparations for the State by March. This project will be done by the end of next Summer. The Alliance COVID funding approved the lights. The lighting project will be at a 90% completion in a month. It will be a huge improvement to the overall atmosphere.
7. Comments for the Good of the Order: (Paraphrased.)
- Jason – “Happy Veterans Day – check out some social media posts about what the schools have done for Veterans’ Day today!”
- Sue F – “I echo exactly what Jason just said!”
- Laura – “Thank you everyone. I really appreciate the substitute increase because I am very concerned about the shortages.”
- Corey – “looking forward to checking out what the kids did for Veteran’s Day!”
- Ali – “I was able to attend the parade at Vogel and channel 3 was there.”
- Fiona – “Thank you to all our Veterans. I want to remind everyone about the upcoming food drive.”
- John – “Happy Veterans Day and I am very proud to be part of the Torrington community.”
- Ellen – “Thank you to all the Veterans!”
- John – “Respect to the Veterans. I am happy the schools put something together this year.”
- Gary – “I concur with John.”
- Kim – “Happy Veterans Day and thank you for the substitute pay rate increase.”

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on December 29, 2020.

Sue L. – “Thank you for the substitute pay increase, I think this will make a difference. I want to thank John and Ally for presenting their plans and creating a vision for long-range planning. Also, many thanks to the schools for Veterans Day.”

Armand – “Thank you to all the Veterans and all the people still serving.”

8. Topics for Future Meetings:
 - a. Monthly Financials
 - b. Windows
 - c. Updates on Current Projects
 - d. Covid-19 Expenses
 - e. Possible Capital/Update/Changes
 - f. Budget Timeline
9. Adjournment: Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Corey. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 P.M.