

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on May 3, 2021.



Torrington Public Schools

SUSAN M. LUBOMSKI
SUPERINTENDENT

SUSAN B. FERGUSON
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Special Budget Committee Meeting Monday, March 22, 2021, 6:00 P.M. 355 Migeon Ave.

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 6:01 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Mr. Maniccia, Mr. Corey (Remote), Ms. Fappiano, Mr. Eucalitto, Mr. Lafreniere (Teacher Representative)
Also Present: Ms. Cappabianca, Ms. Hoehne, Ms. Richardson (Remote), Mr. Kissko, Ms. Todor (Remote), Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Fergusson, Mr. Arum, Ms. Schulte, Ms. Herold, Ms. Klimaszewski
3. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Ms. Fappiano. All in favor.
4. Public Participation: None.
5. Discussion/Next Steps:
 - a. Monthly Financials: Mr. Arum reported that the surplus has increased. Mr. Arum reviewed tuition and incoming student numbers. There will be a credit from All Star Bus Company. Mr. Arum discussed the line items that may end up with a surplus. Additionally, there was a problem with the sewer line between Torrington School and the street. Mr. Arum and Mr. Barlow are scheduling this work during the Easter weekend, possibly Saturday. The cost is estimated between \$20,000-\$25,000.
 - b. COVID-19 Expenses: We will be going for our 4th payment.
 - c. MS Roof Close-out –State Project # 143-0075: The total we paid was \$619,305.78. There was a cost savings with this project.
 - d. Excess Cost Grant: This year we will get a reimbursement of 83%. City could receive \$2,014,731.00; but we are monitoring this.
 - e. ESSER II - Cares Act II Funds: Ms. Lubomski stated that this is the same proposal she shared before. The State had some confusion over using the Title I allotment for 2019 or 2020 as a basis for the funding. Either way, they will still give the district the \$2.9 million that was promised. They extended the application to April 19th. Mr. Corey stated that any items or staffing that are long term or continual needs should be put in general budget. Ms. Cappabianca asked if we move the Spanish and Music teacher into general budget, could we use those funds for additional remedial support. Ms. Lubomski said we could.
 - f. American Rescue Act: \$6.1 million dollars is coming to the district to be used in the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. The City is also receiving \$3.3 million.

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- g. Budget 2021-2022: Currently, we are at 1.4% for our operating budget. We now have 62.71% of free or reduced lunch. We are concerned about our EL population. The EL population has increased to 11% and in significant need as evidenced by the achievement data. Ms. Lubomski is proposing:

EL Proposal:

EL teacher at each school-6 positions

Tutors at THS-3 tutors for content area

Para support-add 1 to each school

TF, Bilingual Teacher full time from .6

EL Coordinator: some of the roles should include: Bilingual Family Outreach Planner, EL Dept. Head K-12, LAS Links Coordinator, this person would be housed at THS, etc.

HR Needs and Restructuring: Recruitment, Employee Records, Labor Relations

Social Workers: 1 each at THS and TMS for SEL, Attendance, Disconnected students, home visiting, family support, etc.

Mr. Lafreniere stated that he has found translators to be essential. All these positions would be about \$1,999,851.00 with a budget increase of 2.61%. Mr. Eucalitto stated that by spending this money, we would save the money in the long term. We need to have the staff available to meet the needs. The positions that are most likely to become permanent positions should go in the general budget and the temporary or piloting positions should stay in the grants. Ms. Fappiano stated that she wanted the projection numbers to be more detailed and more sense if the board is planning the budget due to a historical trend and not because of Covid-19. The committee decided to move the budget to the full board.

- 6. Topics for Future Meetings:
 - a. Monthly Financials
 - b. Covid-19 Expenses
 - c. ESSER II - Cares Act II Funds
 - d. American Rescue Act
 - e. Propane Contract
 - f. Sped Transportation
 - g. World Stride Refunds
 - h. 2021-2022 Budget

- 7. Comments for the Good of the Order:

Mr. Lafreniere - "I am disappointed I will be missing Wednesday's meetings because of parent teacher conferences."

Laura - "I really appreciate the fact that our board listens to the needs of the district."

John - "Happy to be here talking about education."

Armand - "Thank you all. I can't wait for Wednesday's discussion."

- 8. Adjournment: Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Ms. Fappiano. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:44 P.M.