

Capital School District
198 Commerce Way
Dover, DE 19904-3498



CAPITAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

District Office Conference Room 126

MINUTES

Budget Oversight Committee

Dennis Hallock, Chairperson
Joyce Denman, Ed.D.
William Garfinkel
Toriano Giddens
Tina Huff, Ed.D.
Kirk Johnson, Ph.D.
Vanessa Withers-Little

Sean Sokolowski, Business Manager

(D)	DISCUSSION
(I)	INFORMATION

Budget Oversight Committee Members Present:

Dennis Hallock, Chairperson
Joyce Denman, Ed.D. (arrived 12:16pm)
William Garfinkel
Toriano Giddens (arrived 12:40pm)
Tina Huff, Ed.D.
Kirk Johnson, Ph.D.
Vanessa Withers-Little

Also Present

Sean Sokolowski, Business Manager

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m.

1.01 Roll Call – Establishment of a Quorum

Quorum was established with five members present.

2.01 Review and Approval of minutes

Mr. Sokolowski presented the minutes from the August 12, 2015 meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Mr. Hallock, seconded by Dr. Johnson, and were approved on a unanimous vote (5-0).

2.02 September 30th Unit Count

Mr. Sokolowski presented the enrollment figures from September 30th 2015. It was explained that the unit count has the most significant impact on the District's Budget because the September 30th count drives most of the state funding including how many teaching, secretarial, administrative, and para positions the District can employ. For FY 16 the District enrollment decreased from 6,665 to 6,486 and the units earned (or teaching positions) fell from 513.63 to 512.51. The District's enrollment had steadily increased over the previous twelve years. Enrollment is down in kindergarten and at virtually every school other than South and the special schools. Although the number of students is down the percent of special education units continues to increase.

2.03 Providence Contract – Tuition Tax

Mr. Sokolowski explained that the Board had previously approved contracting with Providence to provide a twilight program for students awaiting placement in the Parkway Academy. Since the Parkway Academy is a tuition approved school, the District solicited DOE for permission to utilize tuition tax funding to fund the new Twilight Program. Given that the children are waiting the placement into Parkway, and that the same institution is providing the services for both Parkway and the Twilight Program, DOE approved the use of tuition tax funding. The District will seek approval from the Board to utilize tuition funds for this purpose. It is estimated that this along with other factors will necessitate an increase in the tuition tax for next year.

2.04 State Budget

Mr. Sokolowski explained that the FY 17 estimated State funding shortfall had been at \$160million as of the last CBOC meeting and that the most recent information indicated that the shortfall had fallen to \$140-\$150 million. The District still has no indication as to whether it's funding will be cut, the extent of any cuts, and how the cuts will be implemented (i.e. Drivers Ed, Technology, Ed sustainment, etc.). The District is hoping that the Governor's recommend budget will provide some indication as to whether there will be State cuts in FY 17 and if so there severity.

Mr. Sokolowski shared a synopsis of how education has been cut since 2008. Throughout many categorical funding lines, Districts statewide have been cut \$58,497,600 and \$32,050,900 has been reinstituted by the State, but there is still \$27,446,700 of funding needed to bring the Districts back to their 2008 funding level. Between 2008 and 2013 the state share of educational funding has fallen from 63.0% of the State budget to 58.6% of the State Budget.

2.07 Monthly Reports

The September 31, 2015 monthly reports were disseminated and discussed with the members.

2.09 Future Meetings

The next meeting will be scheduled for December 9, 2015 at 2:00pm.

3.01 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion from Mr. Hallock, seconded by Ms. Withers-Little, and was approved (7-0).