

Meeting: February 1, 2016

Staples High School, Cafeteria B (Room 301)

**WESTPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES**

Board Members Present:

Michael Gordon Chair
Jeannie Smith Vice Chair
Elaine Whitney Secretary
Mark Mathias
Brett Aronow
Karen Kleine

Administrators Present:

Elliott Landon Superintendent of Schools
Elio Longo Dir. of School Business Operations
James D'Amico Dir. of Secondary Ed. & Research
Julie Droller Dir. of Elementary Education
John Bayers Dir. of Human Resources
Michael Rizzo Director of Pupil Services

PUBLIC SESSION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: 7:34 p.m., Staples High School, Cafeteria B (Room 301)

A moment of silence was held for Cody Thomas, a Staples High School English teacher who recently passed away.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

MINUTES: Elaine Whitney motioned and Michael Gordon seconded to approve the BOE Minutes of December 7, 2015, January 5, 8, 11 and 19, 2016; approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION:

Quarterly Financial Report: July 1, 2015-December 31, 2015

Health and Medical Insurance Report: Revenues, Expenses, Projected Year-End Balance

DISCUSSION/ACTION:

Approval of the 2016-17 Budget of the Board of Education

Be It Resolved, That the Board of Education authorizes additions and deletions to the Proposed 2016-2017 Budget of the Superintendent of Schools totaling a net increase of \$26,382, as follows:

- Motion to increase line 115: staff development & leadership by **\$97,209**, to restore the middle school team leader stipends which had been proposed by the Superintendent to be eliminated.

MOTION: Brett Aronow
SECOND: Elaine Whitney
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 6-0

- Motion to increase line 118: interscholastic coaches by **\$13,784**, to restore certain athletic team assistant coaching stipends which had been proposed by the Superintendent to be eliminated.

MOTION: Elaine Whitney
SECOND: Jeannie Smith
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 6-0

- Motion to increase line 122: paraprofessionals by **\$108,000** (plus a corresponding increase in benefits cost of **\$36,000** in line 210 and an increase in FICA/Med cost of \$8,262 in line 220), to restore the third grade paraprofessionals which had been proposed by the Superintendent to be eliminated.

MOTION: Jeannie Smith
SECOND: Karen Kleine
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 6-0

- Motion to increase line 130: bus monitors by **\$125,000** (plus a corresponding increase in FICA/Med cost of **\$9,563** in line 220), to restore certain bus monitor positions which had been proposed by the Superintendent to be eliminated.

MOTION: Karen Kleine
SECOND: Jeannie Smith
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 6-0

- Motion to increase line 133: other assistants by **\$54,000** (plus a corresponding increase in benefits cost of **\$36,000** in line 210 and an increase in FICA/Med cost of **\$4,131** in line 220), to restore 2.0 FTE grade level assistant positions at Staples High School which had been proposed by the Superintendent to be eliminated.

MOTION: Mark Mathias
SECOND: Karen Kleine
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 6-0

- Motion to reduce line 210: health benefits by **\$143,788**, per the recommendation of the Superintendent, to reflect improvements to the projection of net health benefit costs for 2016-2017, based on the most current data, and specifically to adjust the health benefits reserve account to the 9% reserve level which is consistent with BOE policy, rather than the 10% reserve level which was reflected in the Superintendent's Proposed Budget in order to allow for potential account variance during the current school year.

MOTION: Elaine Whitney
SECOND: Brett Aronow
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 6-0

- Motion to reduce line 436: grounds projects by **\$36,000**, per the recommendation of the Superintendent, to fund selected grounds projects instead from the projected FY 2016 year-end balance.

MOTION: Mark Mathias
SECOND: Elaine Whitney
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 6-0

- Motion to: 1) reduce line 731: new instructional equipment by **\$45,800**, 2) reduce line 732: new non-instructional equipment by **\$142,147**, 3) reduce line 733: replacement instructional equipment by **\$43,682**, and 4) reduce line 734: replacement non-instructional equipment by **\$54,147**, per the recommendation of the Superintendent, to fund selected equipment purchases and replacements instead from the projected FY 2016 year-end balance.

MOTION: Elaine Whitney
SECOND: Mark Mathias
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 6-0

- Motion to keep line 104: teacher support at the level proposed by the Superintendent, including **\$132,000** for a net addition of 2.0 FTEs for science coaches (plus a corresponding net increase in benefits cost of **\$36,000** in line 210).

MOTION: Michael Gordon
SECOND: Jeannie Smith
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 6-0

And, Be It Further Resolved, That the Board of Education approves for submission to the Board of Finance and RTM a Proposed 2016-2017 Budget of the Board of Education in the amount of \$113,455,048, which incorporates said additions and deletions, and which reflects a budget-to-budget increase of \$2,283,292, or 2.05%, with a copy of the completed proposed budget to be appended to the minutes of the meeting of February 1, 2016.

MOTION: Michael Gordon
SECOND: Jeannie Smith
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 6-0

ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC SESSION: At 8:46 p.m., Michael Gordon moved to adjourn into an executive session to discuss a Confidential Student Matter; seconded by Jeannie Smith and passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Confidential Student Matter, Staples High School Conference Room 333

All Board members were present. Elliott Landon, Michael Rizzo and James D'Amico were present at the invitation of the Board.

ADJOURNMENT: The executive session adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Whitney, Secretary
(Minutes written by Lisa Marriott)