

**WESTPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Board Members Present:**

Candice Savin  
Karen Kleine  
Elaine Whitney  
Jeannie Smith  
Youn Su Chao  
Lee Goldstein  
Liz Heyer

**Administrators Present:**

Thomas Scarice  
Anthony Buono  
Michael Rizzo  
Elio Longo  
John Bayers

Superintendent of Schools  
Asst. Superintendent, Teaching and Learning  
Asst. Superintendent, Pupil Personnel Services  
Chief Financial Officer  
Director of Human Resources and General Admin.

**PUBLIC CALL TO ORDER:** 6:01 p.m., Held Remotely Via Zoom Pursuant to Executive Order 7B and 9H

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Discussion Concerning the Resignation of the Long Lots Elementary School Principal

Candice Savin moved at 6:01 p.m. to enter into executive session for a Discussion Concerning the Resignation of the Long Lots Elementary School Principal; seconded by Karen Kleine and passed unanimously. All Board members participated; Jeannie Smith arrived at 6:03 p.m. Thomas Scarice, John Bayers, and Jessica Richman Smith of Shipman & Goodwin joined the executive session at the invitation of the Board. The executive session adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

**RESUME PUBLIC SESSION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** 7:36 p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION**

Elaine Whitney moved to add a discussion/action item on the Capital Soft Costs Appropriation Request to the agenda; seconded by Karen Kleine and passed 6-1 (Candice Savin opposed).

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**MINUTES:** February 1 and 4, 2021

Elaine Whitney moved to approve the minutes of February 1 and 4, 2021; seconded by Karen Kleine and passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION**

Health Update

Updated Health and Medical Insurance Review with Board of Education Insurance Consultant, Lockton Companies LLC

Karen Kleine moved to change Updated Health and Medical Insurance Review with Board of Education Insurance Consultant from a discussion item to a discussion/action item; seconded by Elaine Whitney and passed unanimously.

## DISCUSSION/ACTION

Updated Health and Medical Insurance Review with Board of Education Insurance Consultant, Lockton Companies LLC

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education approves commencing negotiations with its employee unions regarding the impact of potential changes to its health benefits plan for FY 2022.**

**MOTION:** Elaine Whitney  
**SECOND:** Candice Savin  
**RESULT:** Passed Unanimously  
**VOTE:** 7-0

## DISCUSSION

FY 2021 Second Quarter Financial Report

## DISCUSSION/ACTION

FY 2022 Proposed Budget of the Superintendent of Schools

Motions and votes on adjustments to the FY 2022 Proposed Budget of the Superintendent of Schools:

Transitions Program

Liz Heyer moved to reduce Account 109 by \$60,441 and Account 114 by \$17,012, reflecting 0.5 FTE for Teachers - Special Education and 0.2 FTE for Teachers - Speech & Hearing, respectively, associated with the proposed expansion of the Transitions Program. No second was made and no action was taken.

Communications Specialist

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education decreases by a total of \$112,000 the funding proposed by the Superintendent of Schools for the proposed new Communications Specialist position, with reductions of \$85,000 in budget line 120: Support Supervisors and \$27,000 in budget line 210: Health Insurance.**

**MOTION:** Elaine Whitney  
**SECOND:** Candice Savin  
**RESULT:** Passed Unanimously  
**VOTE:** 7-0

High School Level Teachers

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education decreases by a total of \$187,762 the funding proposed by the Superintendent of Schools for 2.0 FTE regular education teachers at the high school level, with reductions of \$133,762 in budget line 102: Teachers - Regular Education and \$54,000 in budget line 210: Health Insurance.**

**MOTION:** Youn Su Chao  
**SECOND:** Lee Goldstein  
**RESULT:** Passed  
**VOTE:** 4-3 (Elaine Whitney, Youn Su Chao, Lee Goldstein and Liz Heyer in favor; Candice Savin, Karen Kleine and Jeannie Smith opposed)

#### Elementary Level Paraprofessionals

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education decreases by a total of \$289,945 the funding proposed by the Superintendent of Schools for 5.0 FTE regular education paraprofessionals at the elementary school level, reflecting 1.0 FTE per elementary school, with reductions of \$154,945 in budget line 122: Paraprofessionals - Regular Education and \$135,000 in budget line 210: Health Insurance.**

**MOTION:** Lee Goldstein  
**SECOND:** Youn Su Chao  
**RESULT:** Failed  
**VOTE:** 3-4 (Youn Su Chao, Lee Goldstein and Liz Heyer in favor; Candice Savin, Karen Kleine, Elaine Whitney and Jeannie Smith opposed)

#### High School Level Paraprofessionals

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education decreases by a total of \$115,978 the funding proposed by the Superintendent of Schools for 2.0 FTE regular education paraprofessionals at the high school level, with reductions of \$61,978 in budget line 122: Paraprofessionals - Regular Education and \$54,000 in budget line 210: Health Insurance.**

**MOTION:** Lee Goldstein  
**SECOND:** Youn Su Chao  
**RESULT:** Passed  
**VOTE:** 4-3 (Elaine Whitney, Youn Su Chao, Lee Goldstein and Liz Heyer in favor; Candice Savin, Karen Kleine and Jeannie Smith opposed)

#### High School Level Grade Level Assistants

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education decreases by a total of \$115,978 the funding proposed by the Superintendent of Schools for 2.0 FTE grade level assistants at the high school level, with reductions of \$61,978 in budget line 133: Other Assistants and \$54,000 in budget line 210: Health Insurance.**

**MOTION:** Liz Heyer  
**SECOND:** Youn Su Chao  
**RESULT:** Failed  
**VOTE:** 3-4 (Youn Su Chao, Lee Goldstein and Liz Heyer in favor; Candice Savin, Karen Kleine, Elaine Whitney and Jeannie Smith opposed)

## Elementary Level Assistant Principals

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education increases by a total of \$189,253 the funding proposed by the Superintendent of Schools for 1.0 FTE regular education assistant principals at the elementary school level, with increases of \$162,253 in budget line 100: Administrative Salaries and \$27,000 in budget line 210: Health Insurance.**

**MOTION:** Candice Savin

**SECOND:** Karen Kleine

**RESULT:** Failed

**VOTE:** 2-5 (Candice Savin and Karen Kleine in favor; Elaine Whitney, Jeannie Smith, Youn Su Chao, Lee Goldstein and Liz Heyer opposed)

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education decreases by a total of \$189,253 the funding proposed by the Superintendent of Schools for 1.0 FTE regular education assistant principals at the elementary school level, with reductions of \$162,253 in budget line 100: Administrative Salaries and \$27,000 in budget line 210: Health Insurance.**

**MOTION:** Youn Su Chao

**SECOND:** Liz Heyer

**RESULT:** Passed

**VOTE:** 4-3 (Jeannie Smith, Youn Su Chao, Lee Goldstein and Liz Heyer in favor; Candice Savin, Karen Kleine and Elaine Whitney opposed)

## Permanent Substitutes

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education decreases by \$49,140 the funding proposed by the Superintendent of Schools in budget line 150: Permanent Substitutes, reflecting a reduction of \$15 to the daily rate of pay for these employees, to \$115 per day, and representing the midpoint between the daily rate of pay that was in effect in FY 2020 and the increased daily rate of pay that was put in place during the Covid-19 pandemic.**

**MOTION:** Elaine Whitney

**SECOND:** Youn Su Chao

**RESULT:** Failed

**VOTE:** 3-4 (Candice Savin, Elaine Whitney and Youn Su Chao, in favor; Karen Kleine, Jeannie Smith, Lee Goldstein and Liz Heyer opposed)

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education decreases by \$98,280 the funding proposed by the Superintendent of Schools in budget line 150: Permanent Substitutes, reflecting a reduction of \$30 to the daily rate of pay for these employees, to \$100 per day, and a return to the daily rate of pay that was in effect in FY 2020.**

**MOTION:** Youn Su Chao

**SECOND:** Elaine Whitney

**RESULT:** Failed

**VOTE:** 2-5 (Elaine Whitney and Youn Su Chao, in favor; Candice Savin, Karen Kleine, Jeannie Smith, Lee Goldstein and Liz Heyer opposed)

## Smartboards

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education decreases by \$200,000 the total of \$273,600 in funding proposed by the Superintendent of Schools in budget line 736: Technology Equipment - Instructional for the purpose of the replacement of 38 Smartboards, leaving a net balance of \$73,600 that was originally proposed for that purpose to be allocated instead to the purchase of alternative technologies to be piloted during the upcoming school year and to replacement of instructional technology equipment as may be needed to address breakages during the course of the school year.**

**MOTION:** Elaine Whitney

**SECOND:** Lee Goldstein

**RESULT:** Passed

**VOTE:** 4-3 (Elaine Whitney, Youn Su Chao, Lee Goldstein and Liz Heyer in favor; Candice Savin, Karen Kleine and Jeannie Smith opposed)

## Furniture

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education decreases by \$60,947 the funding proposed by the Superintendent of Schools in budget line 735: Furniture, reflecting no new furniture purchases.**

**MOTION:** Youn Su Chao

**SECOND:** Candice Savin

**RESULT:** Passed

**VOTE:** 6-1 (Jeannie Smith opposed)

## Instructional and Non-Instructional Equipment

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education decreases by a total of \$159,877 the funding proposed by the Superintendent of Schools for instructional and non-instructional equipment, with reductions of \$27,898 in budget line 731: Instructional Equipment - New, \$35,553 in budget line 732: Non-Instructional Equipment - New, \$90,500 in budget line 733: Instructional Equipment - Replacement, and \$5,926 in budget line 734: Non-Instructional Equipment - Replacement, reflecting no new equipment purchases.**

**MOTION:** Elaine Whitney

**SECOND:** Youn Su Chao

**RESULT:** Passed

**VOTE:** 4-3 (Elaine Whitney, Youn Su Chao, Lee Goldstein and Liz Heyer in favor; Candice Savin, Karen Kleine and Jeannie Smith opposed)

## Athletic Equipment

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education decreases by \$45,000 the funding proposed by the Superintendent of Schools in budget line 812: Student Athletics - Equipment, reflecting no new athletic equipment purchases.**

**MOTION:** Youn Su Chao  
**SECOND:** Liz Heyer  
**RESULT:** Passed  
**VOTE:** 4-3 (Elaine Whitney, Youn Su Chao, Lee Goldstein and Liz Heyer in favor; Candice Savin, Karen Kleine and Jeannie Smith opposed)

Final vote on the FY 2022 Requested Operating Budget of the Board of Education:

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education requests an appropriation from the Board of Finance and the Representative Town Meeting for its operating budget for FY 2022 in the amount of \$126,942,298, reflecting \$1,070,817 in total net reductions to the FY 2022 Proposed Budget of the Superintendent of Schools, and a year-over-year increase of \$5,005,810 and 4.11% from the FY 2021 Adopted Operating Budget of the Board of Education.**

**MOTION:** Candice Savin  
**SECOND:** Elaine Whitney  
**RESULT:** Passed  
**VOTE:** 6-1 (Karen Kleine opposed)

At 10:39 p.m., Candice Savin moved to continue with the remaining agenda item, as it was past 10:30 p.m.; seconded by Karen Kleine and passed unanimously.

## **DISCUSSION**

Capital Appropriation Request for Soft Costs for FY 2021 and FY 2022 Capital Projects

**ADJOURNMENT:** Candice Savin moved to adjourn at 10:50 p.m.; seconded by Jeannie Smith and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Whitney, Secretary, Board of Education  
(minutes written by Lisa Marriott)