



**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING – BUDGET CUTS
Monday, May 18, 2015
355 Migeon Avenue**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Fiona Cappabianca (6:15 p.m.), Jeremy Hinman, Ellen Hoehne, John Kissko, Bill Knight, Jim Lamoin, Andrew Nargi, Jessica Richardson, Daniel Thibault, Kenneth P. Traub

Administration: Evette Aird, David Bascetta, Joseph Campolieta, Cheryl F. Kloczko, Susan Lubomski

Absent: Mayor Carbone, Hugh Potter

DISCUSSION: BUDGET CUTS

Chairman Traub presented a list from the TPS Administration of possible cuts to the 2015-2016 Board of Education budget and explained that the city Board of Finance has asked that the Board present a list of prioritized deductions which would bring a budget increase to \$0 to assist the BOF in declaring a maximum allowable increase. Mr. Traub said the purpose of this meeting is for the Board to agree on which items should remain on the list, for members to suggest their own items to be considered for the list by the Board, and to prioritize the items on the list.

Mr. Nargi pointed out that the list did not contain capital items. Mr. Traub said that the consideration of a similar list of cuts specifically regarding the capital portion of the budget would also be the evening's business.

Mr. Traub began with item #1, *Nurse Coordinator and reorganization* at a reduction of \$30,000. Mr. Lamoin pointed out that the reorganization had brought that down to \$20,000.

Mr. Traub pointed out that list items were listed in priority, and members should speak up if not in agreement with such priority.

Priority of items #2 and #3 were considered.

Mr. Thibault pointed out that the last remaining internal IT employee was not on the list and should be added.

Mr. Traub suggested that straw polls be taken at this point, and item #1 was returned to, and a straw poll was taken.

Ms. Richardson objected to the fact that the list was not given to the Board the Friday before this meeting as requested at the Budget Committee meeting the previous Wednesday, and she stated that it was too much to expect a sound judgement on prioritization in such a short period of time. Mr. Traub said that there had been no such direction given to administration from him to provide the list prior to the meeting. Ms. Richardson stated that she would not vote on any of the items on the list because she had not had time to research items that impact district jobs and students.

The Board began consideration of item priority.

Ms. Richardson moved that no votes be taken at this meeting and that the proceedings be purely informational and that the members be given time to research the list items before being asked to make decisions, and Mr. Nargi seconded the motion “for discussion.”

Mr. Traub reminded the members that the Mayor requested by phone that afternoon that this list be provided for the BOF meeting the following evening at 6:00 p.m. and that if decisions were not made at this meeting, the Board would have to reconvene the following day.

Mr. Nargi pointed out that several of the items on the list had already been discussed by the Board during the months-long process and therefore are familiar to the members and that it would be better to go ahead and make a judgement this evening.

Mr. Knight asked how many items on the list had not been discussed previously. Mr. Traub answered that 16 were new and 17 had already been discussed.

Mr. Nargi pointed out that in theory members are responsible to know and be familiar with what is in the currently proposed budget.

Mr. Hinman suggested voting on the 17 previously discussed items first with consideration of the other items to follow. Ms. Richardson stated that she would be more comfortable with that.

Ms. Cappabianca inquired whether the members would be participating in a vote or a straw poll, expressing concern about making any final decisions before knowing what the BOF would allow. Mr. Traub answered that straw polls would be taken to determine if the Board supported the cuts or not and then the Board would make final votes after the BOF presents the number.

Mr. Nargi stressed that the Board is not bound by these straw polls but that, in good faith and in the spirit of transparency, these straw polls will be carefully considered when the time comes for final votes.

Ms. Richardson’s motion failed Y-3 (Kissko, Knight, Richardson), N-7 (Cappabianca, Hinman, Hoehne, Lamoin, Thibault, Traub).

Mr. Hinman made a motion that the members prioritize the motions that had been discussed before, and Mr. Knight seconded the motion. The motion carried Y-7, N-2 (Kissko, Thibault). The Chair abstained.

Straw polls were taken for the 17 list items that had been discussed previously. The numeration of the results below reflects each items number on the list:

List item no.	Description	Reduction dollar amount	Straw poll results Y = keep on reduction list N = remove from reduction list
4	Winter Bus	39,000	Y-3, N-6 (Cappabianca, Hinman, Hoehne, Knight, Lamoin, Richardson), A-Chair
5	No winter drama production – THS	5,250	Y-6, N-3 (Hinman, Knight, Richardson), A-Chair
8	Music repair	7,000	Y-8, N-1 (Hinman), A-Chair
9	504 tutors	10,000	Y-6, N-3 (Hinman, Knight, Richardson), A-Chair

Motion to change #10 to \$30,300 (from \$10,000) was made by Ms. Cappabianca, and Ms. Hoehne seconded.

10	Student transportation – 504	30,300	All in favor
11	Eliminate one day of late bus runs (allocate buses later)	62,251	Y-8, N-1 (Cappabianca), A-Chair
13	Elementary instructional supplies	25,000	Y-5, N-4 (Cappabianca, Hinman, Hoehne, Richardson), A-Chair
14	Secondary instructional supplies	10,000	Y-5, N-4 (Cappabianca, Hinman, Hoehne, Richardson), A-Chair
16	Warner program reduction	55,592	Y-8, N-1 (Cappabianca), A-Chair
20	THS .5 Latin FTE teacher	40,534	Y-2, N-7 (Cappabianca, Hinman, Hoehne, Kissko, Knight, Lamoin, Richardson), A-Chair
27	TAG teacher	81,067	Y-1, N-8 (Cappabianca, Hinman, Hoehne, Kissko, Knight, Lamoin, Richardson, Thibault), A-Chair
28	Elementary AP – 1.0 FTE	108,724	Y-2, N-7 (Cappabianca, Hinman, Hoehne, Knight, Lamoin, Richardson, Thibault), A-Chair
29	5 Elementary Literacy Support teachers	332,837	Y-1, N-8 (Cappabianca, Hinman, Hoehne, Kissko, Knight, Lamoin, Richardson, Thibault), A-Chair
30	RTI Interventionist – TMS Literacy	55,000	Y-2, N-7 (Cappabianca, Hinman, Hoehne, Knight, Lamoin, Richardson, Thibault), A-Chair
31	2 .4 FTE RTI Interventionist THS	44,000	Y-7, N-2 (Cappabianca, Hoehne), A-Chair
32	(#31 English, #32 Math)	44,000	
33	4 FTE teachers TMS – one from each core subject	220,000	Y-2, N-7 (Cappabianca, Hinman, Hoehne, Knight, Lamoin, Richardson, Thibault), A-Chair

Straw polls were taken for the 16 list items that had not been discussed previously. The numeration of the results below reflects each items number on the list:

List item no.	Description	Reduction dollar amount	Straw poll results Y = keep on reduction list N = remove from reduction list
1	Nursing reorganization	20,000	All in favor
2	4 cafeteria workers (one each at East, Southwest, Toringford and Vogel-Wetmore)	31,275	Y-8, N-1 (Richardson), A-Chair
3	Network support	7,500	Y-4, N-5 (Hinman, Knight, Lamoin, Richardson, Thibault), A-Chair
6	Summer curriculum stipends	10,000	Y-8, N-1 (Richardson), A-Chair
7	Maintenance cut	50,000	Y-8, N-1 (Richardson), A-Chair
12	Non-instructional supplies districtwide	25,000	Y-8, N-1 (Richardson), A-Chair
15	THS FRP secretary	38,466	Y-6, N-3 (Cappabianca, Hoehne, Richardson), A-Chair
17	Options Program administrator – FTE 0.4	43,227	Y-8, N-1 (Richardson), A-Chair
18	TMS interscholastic athletics	73,857	Y-0, N-9, A-Chair
19	Reduction to sub-varsity sports – THS	175,114	Y-0, N-9, A-Chair
21	World Language – TMS – 3.4 FTE	216,972	Y-1, N-8 (Cappabianca, Hinman, Hoehne, Kissko, Knight, Lamoin, Richardson, Thibault), A-Chair

List item no.	Description	Reduction dollar amount	Straw poll results Y = keep on reduction list N = remove from reduction list
22	THS Social Studies teacher 1.0 FTE	49,490	Y-2, N-7 (Cappabianca, Hoehne, Kissko, Knight, Lamoin, Richardson, Thibault), A-Chair
23	THS Science teacher 1.0 FTE	55,000	
24	THS Math teacher 1.0 FTE	43,337	
25	THS English teacher 1.0 FTE	75,599	
26	Custodian – 1.0 FTE	50,000	Y-0, N-9, A-Chair

Mr. Traub entertained ideas for further cuts. Members put forward suggestions to be voted on (see below).

At 9:00 p.m. Mr. Thibault made a motion to extend the meeting for 45 minutes, and Mr. Nargi seconded the motion. The motion carried Y-5, N-4 (Hinman, Kissko, Knight, Richardson). The Chair abstained.

A straw poll was taken on new items put forward by members.

Board member proposing	Description	Reduction dollar amount	Straw poll results Y = keep on reduction list N = remove from reduction list
Mr. Thibault	Outsourcing IT	40,000	Y-4, N-5 (Hinman, Hoehne, Lamoin, Nargi, Cappabianca), A-Chair
Mr. Thibault	Outsourcing grounds keeping and backfill of 2 custodians	50,000	Y-4, N-5 (Cappabianca, Kissko, Knight, Nargi, Richardson), A-Chair
Mr. Thibault	Elimination of Director of Enhanced Programs	65,495	Y-3, N-5 (Cappabianca, A-2 (Hinman, Chair)
Mr. Thibault	Removal of additional data secretary from Central Office	63,000	Y4, N-5 (Cappabianca, Hinman, Kissko, Richardson, Traub), A-1 (Knight)
Mr. Thibault	One school secretary at secondary level	55,000	Y-5, N-4 (Cappabianca, Hoehne, Kissko, Richardson), A-Chair
Mr. Nargi	New chemistry textbooks	28,000	Y-1, N-8 (Cappabianca, Hinman, Hoehne, Kissko, Knight, Lamoin, Richardson, Thibault), A-Chair
Mr. Nargi	Director of Human Resources	95,000	Y-1, N-8 (Cappabianca, Hinman, Hoehne, Kissko, Knight, Lamoin, Richardson, Thibault), A-2 (Knight, Chair)
Ms. Richardson	Reduction in printing and binding	2,000	All if favor
Ms. Richardson	Reduction from in-district Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA)	1,000	Y-7, N-2 (Cappabianca, Knight), A-Chair
Ms. Richardson	Reduction from Migeon Academy	48,000	Y-7, N-2 (Cappabianca, Hoehne), A-Chair
Ms. Cappabianca	Reduction from Pre-K special education	75,000	All in favor
Ms. Cappabianca	Restructuring of secondary educational administration	50,000	Y-8, N-1 (Thibault), A-Chair

At 9:45 p.m. a motion to extend the meeting for 30 minutes was made by Ms. Cappabianca, and Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. The motion carried Y-5, N-4 (Kissko, Knight, Richardson, Thibault). The Chair abstained.

Members discussed prioritization of the above suggested cuts, and it was agreed that the suggested cuts would be presented to the Board of Finance in the order discussed above but that they would be presented without priority.

Suggested cuts from the capital budget were discussed. Mr. Bascetta presented four possible cuts from the facilities portion of the capital budget: landscaping at Forbes at \$40,000, window repairs at Vogel-Wetmore at \$75,000, parking lot paving at Torrington High School at \$110,000, and driveway maintenance at Torrington Middle School at \$82,500.

Ms. Lubomski presented possible cuts from the technology portion of the capital budget:

- carts for laptops, mice, mobile laptops and adult computers at East School at \$139,552;
- carts for laptops, mice, mobile laptops and adult computers at Forbes School at \$141,296;
- carts for laptops, mice, and mobile laptops at Southwest School at \$95,952;
- carts for laptops, mice, and mobile laptops at Tarringford School at \$95,952;
- carts for laptops, mice, mobile laptops and adult computers at Vogel-Wetmore School at \$156,992;
- carts for laptops, mobile laptops, grant contribution, replacement of Mac lab, and Doc Cams at Torrington High School at \$402,936;
- thin client workstations, mimo interactive whiteboards, EPSON Powerlite projectors, and projector installation and wire management districtwide at \$179,135.

Mr. Knight moved that the Board accept Mr. Bascetta's suggested facilities capital cuts, and Mr. Hinman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mr. Lamoin moved that the Board accept Ms. Lubomski's suggested technology capital cuts, and Ms. Hoehne seconded the motion. All in favor.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Thibault expressed wanting to see a presentation from Richard Luna of Protected Harbor on the cost of outsourcing all IT services.

Ms. Cappabianca expressed that if there were to be such a presentation as Mr. Thibault suggested, she would like the administration business office to hold a cross-presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:10 p.m. Mr. Knight made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. All in favor.