

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on May 26, 2021.



## Torrington Public Schools

SUSAN M. LUBOMSKI  
SUPERINTENDENT

SUSAN B. FERGUSSON  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

### **Budget Committee Meeting Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 7:00 P.M. 355 Migeon Ave.**

#### **Minutes**

1. Call to Order: 7:02 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Mr. Maniccia, Mr. Eucalitto, Mr. Corey Mr. Lafreniere (Teacher Representative)  
Absent: Ms. Fappiano  
Also Present: Ms. Cappabianca, Mr. Kissko, Ms. Hoehne, Ms. DePretis (Remote), Ms. Richardson (Remote), Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Fergusson, Mr. Barlow, Mr. Arum, Ms. Klimaszewski, Ms. Schulte, Ms. Herold
3. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Mr. Corey. All in favor.
4. Approval of Minutes: Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve the minutes in a bundle, second by Mr. Corey. All in favor.
  - a. Regular Budget Meeting March 3, 2021
  - b. Special Budget Meeting (Public Hearing) March 11, 2021
  - c. Special Budget Meeting (Public Hearing) March 16, 2021
  - d. Special Budget Meeting March 22, 2021
5. Public Participation: None.
6. Discussion/Next Steps:
  - a. Monthly Financials: Mr. Arum reviewed the monthly financial detail. The budget is still in good shape. Transportation is lower, because of the credit the district is receiving. Mr. Arum reviewed the accounts with multiple surpluses and one deficit. Ms. Cappabianca stated that it does not matter how many people we physically have in the buildings, our operating costs remain the same. Regarding Natural Gas, Mr. Arum is projecting there will be a deficit of around \$26,000.
  - b. ESSER II - Cares Act II Funds: Ms. Lubomski presented the final funding proposal that was presented to the Board at the Board Meeting and previous sub-committee meetings. The district will receive \$2,929,170.00.

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- c. American Rescue Act Grant Update: The district will receive \$6.1 million. Application and specifications should be available by mid-May.
  - d. Covid-19 Funding Update: The district received the 4<sup>th</sup> payment and may receive one more payment.
  - e. Healthy Food Certification: This approval occurs annually. Since we have been back full time in March at the secondary level, the meals have doubled.
  - f. Propane: 2-year contract – The district has a stockpile of 100,000 gallons, so we do not have to go out to bid until December.
  - g. Special Education Transportation: Mr. Arum passed shared the bids with the committee. The bids included 3-year pricing.
  - h. World Stride Discussion: Mr. Maniccia stated the committee had to decide if there was any reimbursement that involved the Board. Mr. Lafreniere reviewed the status of funding for the trip. There was a total of 77 paying participants between adults and students. Of those 77, 7 parents did not purchase insurance. Those who purchased insurance were reimbursed, except for the insurance which was \$125.00. Therefore, 7 families were out of pocket \$261.25. There is some fundraising money - \$3,738.30. Ms. DePretis inquired if the families should be given back the money that they fundraised. Mr. Lafreniere stated that this is student activity money and not individual student money. Mr. Lafreniere stated that his preference was for reimbursement for families regardless of whether they purchased insurance. The committee decided that this is a site decision. The reimbursement will be addressed by the school, since this is a site field trip and the reimbursement as such falls under site student activity funds. Ms. Fergusson said Mr. Scott was working with Mr. Lafreniere on this issue and would be able to resolve the reimbursement situation with him.
  - i. 2021-2022 Budget Update: Mr. Arum presented a budget of \$77,502,179.00 with a budget increase of 1.26%. The district had an increase in workers compensation. Overall, the district had a big deduction in insurance claims. The Board of Education and Board of Finance joint meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday, April 28th.
7. Topics for Future Meetings
    - a. Monthly Financials
    - b. Special Education Transportation
    - c. American Rescue Act
    - d. Covid-19 Update
    - e. 2021-2022 Budget Updates
  8. Comments for the Good of the Order (Paraphrased.)

Gary - “We were spared the Tornado today.”

Sue L. – “I want to thank Ed for working on the insurance with the Comptroller and the Mayor, it made a huge difference to our budget.”

Jason - “Thank you and stay safe.”

Laura – “I wanted to give a shout out for all of our administrative assistants.”

John – “I talked to Andrew Deacon; he is now a Doctor Andrew Deacon.”

Armand – “Thank you to everyone, keep up the hard work, it is paying off.”
  9. Adjournment: Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Corey second. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 P.M.