

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 19, 2014**

ATTENDANCE: Rosa Murray, Chair; Mike Barbis, Heidi Keyes.

STAFF: Dr. Manuel Rivera, Superintendent; Richard Rudl, Chief Business & Financial Officer; BOE Member Shirley Mosby

Call to Order

Ms. Murray called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. and stated that members in attendance were as listed above and there was a quorum present.

Budget Forum Summary Priorities, Concerns, Areas for Improvement

Dr. Rivera explained that process for the budget development represents the items suggested a year ago, school submissions, the public forum summaries and input from the Superintendent's budget advisory group comprised of building principals, and central office staff. He then presented the following summary priorities:

Curriculum & Instruction

New textbooks needed, particularly at the middle school level (Social Studies)

Impact of legislation that potentially moves up

Kindergarten cut—off date

Importance of Curriculum & Instruction Site Directors

Pre—K enrollment, registration, expansion

Academically Talented programs

Support for librarians and library resources

Expansion of World Languages to elementary

Common Core training and support, teacher evaluations

Support for the arts

Transportation.

Traffic calming methods

Lack of crosswalk

Basic maintenance and repair needs

Need for blinds (Wolfpit)

Impact of new residential developments

Facilities & Operations

Repairs and upgrades to PA systems

Sidewalk Safety, Traffic - schools to Wheels bus stop (Briggs)

Extra curricular and After-School Programs

Athletic Trainers for injury

HS band programs have a proven success, but are underfunded

Transportation and after—school programming

Need for physical activity, younger students Importance of athletic injury prevention/ detection

Success of Freshman Academies

Other Topics

Interest in continued expansion of Chrome Books, including use at after-school programs

Student web access at home

Keyboarding lessons

More guidance counselors and social workers

ECS funding disparities

HS scheduling issues, “flip” HS and elementary start times

Funding for influx of new ESL students

Translation resources and support for ESL parents

PTO and parent club communication needs

Parent engagement, particularly at Middle Schools

Class sizes and paraprofessional support

Shortages in adult mentors

There was discussion and with suggestions of key areas from the Board members.

October 2014 Financial Monthly report

Mr. Rudl stated that since this week’s meeting was just the Organizational meeting, the financial report was not presented to the full Board. He referred to the budget report and explained that for October financial expenditures were compared to the theoretical rate at 33.33% and YTD Actual is \$ 39,370,480 of the Adjusted Budget \$ 167,027,368 - Current Theoretical Rate 23.6%

Mr. Rudl gave an over of grants, as follows:

Priority Schools Grant Supports Early Literacy, Drop out Prevention, Alternative Programs

Award: \$4,278,664 + Projected Carryover: Total Funds: \$4,393

\$115,000,664

Alliance District Grant

- Alliance is in the 3rd Year of a 3 Year Grant.
- The State has indicated preliminarily that the grant will continue next year.

- Award: \$1,180,676
- Projected Carryover: \$415,000
- Total Funds: \$1,595,676

Briggs Turnaround Grant

- The Briggs Turnaround grant provides funding to support Briggs High School.
- Award: \$420,445

IDEA Grant

supports Special Education.
Award: \$1,921,000

Mr. Rudl provided a brief overview of Priority funding (\$4.2 million) and Alliance (\$1.3million) and noted issues are pending the Commissioner of Education.

It was agreed to have this draft outline presented at the next full Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Knox
Telesco Secretarial Services