

**CITY OF NORWALK  
FINANCE COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 22, 2017**

**ATTENDANCE:** Brian Meek, Chairman; Erik Anderson; Mike Barbis

**STAFF:** Tom Hamilton, CFO, Norwalk Public Schools

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Meek called the meeting to order at 4:15 p. m. A quorum was present.

**UPDATE ON FY 2017-18 OPERATING BUDGET**

Mr. Hamilton stated that the Department of Education 2016-17 approved budget was \$176,150,093. The FY 2017-18 Original Budget request \$193,893,243. The Finance Director's recommended budget for FY 2017-18 is \$182,784,248. Mr. Hamilton stated that the FY 2017-18 Pro Forma Revised Superintendent Request is \$184,084,248.

Mr. Hamilton reviewed a possible health insurance reduction. He stated that the Connecticut Partnership 2.0 savings would come to \$5,483,979. Use of the remaining projected insurance reserve balance would be \$3,000,000. Mr. Hamilton stated that in order to switch health plans, a network match of at least 90% would be necessary.

Mr. Hamilton stated that we will need to come up with \$1,300,000 to cover the budget. This money could be covered with small reductions across the board or by making targeted cuts. He stated that he did not have final dollar amounts that would be saved by targeted cuts. He stated that the Norwalk High School Pool could be shut down.

Mr. Hamilton stated that a study could be done on the bus routes and one or more bus routes could be eliminated. He stated that it was a possibility to eliminate courtesy riders – students that live within walking distance but are still picked up by busses. He stated that crossing guards could be stationed at locations to allow students to cross Route 1 safely. He stated that changing opening bell times at schools could be altered to help with making bus routes more efficient. Mr. Hamilton stated that contracts with organizations providing special education transportation could be renegotiated allowing for savings in future years.

Mr. Barbis stated that he is against per student reductions, and would prefer making targeted cuts. He stated that parents could be willing to pay for their children to be courtesy riders. Mr. Meek stated that he has seen empty busses driving down the same streets, and he sees opportunity to improve the efficiency of the routes.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the Academically Talented Program could be reexamined and reworked. He stated that there are currently 8 teachers working in AT and that could be reduced to five teachers. Mr.

Anderson stated that he is not optimistic about targeted cuts covering the budget shortfall. He stated that he would like Mr. Hamilton to consider cuts to sports and extra-curricular activities.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the Pathways Academy has had a decrease in enrollment. At one time there was talk of there being 200 students there, but there are currently 49 students.

Mr. Hamilton stated that school nurses and school resource officers could be another targeted area to find savings.

Mr. Barbis requested that Mr. Hamilton put together an organized list of targeted cuts in order of magnitude. Mr. Anderson stated that some amount of across the board cuts could be made as well as some of the targeted cuts.

Mr. Hamilton provided the members with the 2017/2018 Recommended Budget Change in Full Time Headcount from the 2016/2017 Approved Budget. Mr. Anderson requested that an organizational chart be put together to show where additions had been made. He stated that it is important to understand how many personnel are in each object code and the job functions of each person.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**\*\* MR. ANDERSON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**  
**\*\* MR. BARBIS SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney  
Telesco Secretarial Services