

**NORWALK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MAY 10, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: Bryan Meek, Chair; Mike Barbis (5:10 p.m.) Erik Anderson (5:15 p.m.)

STAFF: Thomas Hamilton, Finance Director

OTHER: Joseph Giandurco, NFT

Call to Order

Mr. Meek called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. and noted that the meeting would begin with an overview of the financial reports until the other members arrived.

2016-17 Financial Report

Mr. Hamilton referred to the 2016-17 Financial Report and reviewed variances as noted. He explained overages in legal fees are due to unsettled contracted services and substitute areas are tracking higher than the expended rate, but there are funds available if needed to transfer from wage accounts. In addition he noted a budget freeze in the Central Office on spending and a district wide recommended deferral of requisitions until 2017-18 should generate about \$500,000 in budget savings from supplies, energy costs, and instructional accounts.

*Mr. Barbis entered the meeting at 5:10 p.m.*

Mr. Hamilton explained that last year at this time OOD tuitions were \$1.7 million over budget, and this year are running on budget. Last year, the contracted services account was \$3.6 million over the original budget; so this year \$1.6 million overrun in that context of where we have been it's a marked improvement.

Mr. Hamilton presented proposed budget transfers totaling \$949,538. The following highlighted items were noted: \$267,798 would go to Special Education contracted services; \$125,000 for substitutes, \$30,000 for substitute Sp. Ed. paraprofessionals; \$60,000 for legal fees; \$200,000 in contract negotiations. He added that the Finance Department has identified \$1 million available in the wage accounts mostly from staff turnover, with replacement positions at a higher rate than their replacements, and positions kept open for a while. There have also been changes in assumptions made with contracts.

*Mr. Anderson entered the meeting at 5:15 p.m.*

Mr. Hamilton outlined that progress has occurred in spec ed. by getting control of expenditures, and processes have been strengthened and improved, as outlined at a recent Special Education Committee meeting, everything is fully encumbered, contracts are in place for every service, out of district tuition for accurate projection of expenses going forward.

Mr. Meek returned the order of the agenda to go back to the approval of minutes.

#### Approval of Minutes – April 18, 2017

There was discussion on whether comments made on potential cuts of 75 teaching positions should be in the minutes. Mr. Meek noted that this was a comment of speculation based on rough calculation, not definitive and suggested that specifics should not be in the minutes.

- \*\* MR. ANDERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2017 AS SUBMITTED.**
- \*\* MR. BARBIS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### Review and Discuss Status of 2017-18 Budget Reconciliation

Mr. Meek asked if next year's budget is in order. Mr. Hamilton noted that the OOD tuition, is okay and a way to adjust contracted services is needed. He added that if the Governor's proposed increase to Special Education funding goes through, NPS would receive an additional \$1.6 million, which would cover the overage, and if not other areas are being examined.

Mr. Meek asked to discuss any progress that has been made with the insurance issue, as without that, this budget doesn't have votes in June, and hard decisions will have to be made.

Mr. Hamilton explained that any discussion on the status of where we are in the health plan negotiations and the move to the state 2.0 plan has to take place in executive session because of active negotiations with collective bargaining groups. He added that the recommendation is to move forward on implementation of a change to the health plan but the details on that could not be discussed in open session.

**\*\* MR. ANDERSON MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION ON THE 2017-18 BUDGET RECONCILIATION.**

**\*\* MR. BARBIS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**The meeting entered into Executive Session at 5:35 p.m. and was reconvened into public session at 6:00 p.m.** There were no votes or action taken.

Mr. Meek left the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Other Business

Mr. Anderson noted that he was in agreement with the budget transfers and reconciliation of \$1,324,916 as recommended. He added that was in support of the Transportation adjustments and he applauds the Finance Department for the analysis.

Adjournment

**\*\* MR. ANDERSON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* MR. BARBIS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Knox,  
Telesco Secretarial Services