

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
CANTERBURY, CONNECTICUT**

Date: Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School-Media Center

Approved June 12, 2018

A. Call of Quorum and Pledge of Allegiance

In attendance from the Board of Education (BOE): Vivian Thumser, Chairperson; Nancy Duvall, Secretary; Walt Petruniw, Leticia Velasquez, Tom Dufort, Bridgett LaBrecque

Absent: John Gentry

Others Present: Dr. Lois DaSilva-Knapton, Superintendent; Sarah Cary, Principal CES; Ryan Earley, Principal BMS; Jodi Davis, Pupil Service Director; Janice Thurlow, Director of Finance

BOF: Raymond Sulich Jr., Mathieu Bruneaux, Michael Lee, Howell Tuttle, Jessica Vincent, Steve Pelletier

Vivian Thumser, Chairperson called the Board of Education meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

B. Special Purpose

1. Graduating Student Recognition of Achievement

Jodi Davis, Pupil Service Director introduced Scott Young, Norwich Free Academy Student

Mr. Young spoke about his childhood in Canterbury Public Schools and how he dealt with his autism throughout his school years.

Mrs. Young also spoke regarding how important special education services are for children who have disabilities. Scott's mom added that special education services in Canterbury helped her son over the years. Another community member agreed, stating that her grandchildren were non-verbal when they were 2 years old and Canterbury special education helped them and they are now attending BMS and doing well.

C. Comments from Visitors

None

D. Presentations & Actions

Motion: To move Item E-C Transportation Bid to Item D 2 and move Item E-1 Board of Finance Communication to Item D-6 all other items to move down one.

By: Walt Petruniw
Second: Tom Dufort
All in favor
Motion passes

1. Support Staff Presentation

Jodi Davis, Director of Pupil Services handed out material regarding the number of Paraeducators and students in each grade level to demonstrate our level of support for the students. Mrs. Davis discussed the handout.

A parent asked if pre-school is funded by the state, the Superintendent stated yes; the School Readiness Grant, but the School Readiness grant doesn't fund the special education student needs.

There was a discussion regarding student enrollment numbers versus grant money.

2. Transportation Bid Out

The Superintendent and Mrs. Thurlow discussed transportation and the possibility of looking to contract out for a few bus runs or bidding out for transportation next year.

The Superintendent stated that this needs to be discussed further. Contracted companies will not take buses that have over 100,000 miles on it. The Superintendent passed out a paper that described the entire bus fleet and their mileage.

3. Budget 2017-2018

The Superintendent discussed the 2017-18 budget and stated that we have not overspent our budget, however, based on end-of-year anticipated estimates, an additional appropriation of \$92,000 will be requested from the BOF.

4. Budget 2018-2019

The Superintendent discussed the 2018-2019 budget which included:

- MBR cannot go below the amount from last year
- 1.6 % increase over the minimum budget requirement
- Tuition this year went up over \$300,000 due to the 8th grade class size last year
- Almost 50% increase in medical insurance over the last 2 years combined
Looking into joining Echip light with EASTCONN which will assist us- the More people the lower the rate
- Co-pay for staff range from 17% to 20% of the insurance policy for the individual, we do have a HSA plan
- Salaries which are contractual equal approximately 60% of our budget
- Current legislation on the table that the Governor cannot reduce ECS next year

The Superintendent reviewed the remaining pages of the budget:
Grants

High School tuition
CIP budget

The Superintendent and Janice Thurlow answered questions regarding line-by-line budget items:

- Salary raises, Insurance copay, Transportation (looking into contracting out a few buses); Teachers pay, advisors, library coordinator, degree changes, postage
- Mr. Sulich said he does not remember ever seeing the MBR included in the budget before. Is the budget being written as the MBR as the goal or being written as to what you think you will spend-The Superintendent stated it is written as what we will need for the next year.
- A parent thanked Mr. Earley and Mrs. Cary for all their hard work and how wonderful they are with the students and how much the parents appreciate and value them

The Board of Finance adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

- Other line items were discussed.

Mr. Sulich, BOF Chairperson said the BOS will present their budget tomorrow night at the BOF meeting.

5. CIP 2018-2019

Dr. DaSilva-Knapton discussed the CIP budget with changes with a CIP budget of \$225,000

Motion: To accept the CIP budget with changes with a total amount of \$225,000.

By: Tom Dufort

Second: Walt Petruniw

All in favor

Motion passes

6. Move forward to BOF with additional appropriation

Dr. DaSilva-Knapton stated a letter was sent to the BOF chair and they will discuss The need for our additional appropriation tomorrow.

Motion: To suspend the remaining Agenda until the next BOE meeting in June.

By: Tom Dufort

Second: Walt Petruniw

All in favor

Motion passes

E. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 9:32 p.m. By: Walt Petruniw Second: Tom Dufort

Respectfully submitted (on behalf of the Board via audio-recording) by:
Dottie Horn
BOE recorder