

**SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 11, 2013**

A Special Budget Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at the Board of Education Administrative Offices, 1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Jeffrey Currey.

PRESENT Chairman Jeffrey Currey, Dorese Roberts, Christopher Gentile, Marilyn Pet, Stephanie Watkins, Tom Rup, Tyron Harris

ABSENT Secretary Bryan Hall

ALSO PRESENT Nathan D. Quesnel, Superintendent of Schools
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Curriculum
Dr. Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Anne Marie Mancini, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Valerie Scheer

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

Discussion with possible action regarding appointment of individual to fill vacant Board of Education position

MOTION By Stephanie Watkins
Seconded by Tom Rup
To appoint Valerie Scheer to fill the vacated seat on the Board of Education.
Motion unanimously carried.

Town Clerk, Robert Pasek, administered the oath of office to Valerie Scheer.

Business Needing Board Action

Special Meeting for budgetary purposes with possible action on the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Chairman Currey stated this is the third and final budget session and thanked all those who participated in this process.

Superintendent Quesnel noted that tonight we will analyze the budget and identify areas where we may be able to cut this budget.

Budget Reduction Options

Mr. Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services, reviewed Budget Reduction Option 1, a list of proposed budget reductions totaling \$1,572,864. The budget reduction options would reduce the overall proposed budget increase from 5.7% to 3.8% over the adopted budget. We proposed eliminating certain expenditures including dues for professional associations, textbooks,

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instructional supplies as well as \$500,000 in salaries with most being funded through the state and federal grants.

Other operating budget accounts will also be reduced. Mr. Mainuli also noted there are two increases noted in this presentation that include \$250,000 for anticipated increases in the new contract for student transportation services and \$60,000 to pay for an insurance settlement.

Chairman Currey stated that a 3.8% increase over the adopted budget represents responsible cuts for the district. Any further budget cuts will be very uncomfortable to make.

Alliance Grant Overview

Anne Marie Mancini, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Instruction

Ms. Mancini gave an overview of the state Alliance Grant, noting we are in our second year of funding of the five year grant. State monies are designated to our district through legislation for educational reform. Allocation of grant dollars is specific to locally conceived reform plans approved by the state. Funds cannot be used to supplant or replace expenses already in the operating budget.

Focus/Review Schools for Year 1 were Mayberry, Norris, O'Brien and Silver Lane Schools. Grant funds amounted to \$1,714,744. Priority areas were identified for specific improvement initiatives: (1) implementation of Common Core State Standards, improving curriculum and instruction; (2) Pre-K – Grade 3 literacy initiatives and (3) talent development – building the capacity of administrators and teachers to improve learning; **Results:** six district schools made the SP1 targets for 2012-13: CIBA, Pitkin, Hockanum, EHHS, O'Brien and Norris Schools. Two district focus schools demonstrated sustained subgroup improvement and exited focus school status. One district school was listed in the CSDE Report on Schools of Distinction – Goodwin Elementary School.

Year 2 Focus/Review Schools were Langford, EHHS and Synergy Schools. Grant funds amounted to \$4,352,756. Priority areas were identified for specific improvement initiatives: (1) Expect student achievement (all schools); (2) develop and implement curriculum (all schools); implement the CK-3LI at Langford and Norris; (3) support implementation of IB program at O'Connell and (4) continue implementation of instructional rounds. Hire a data analyst. We are still looking to fill this position.

Year 3 EHMS will be added and state Alliance Grant funds will amount to \$6,990,768.

Discussion and Possible Action on the FY 2014-15 Proposed Budget

Mr. Wethje was asked what the timeline is for hiring a data analyst. We need to spend dollars from the Alliance Grant. It was noted that we are actively looking for someone to fill this position. We did have such a position a year ago.

Mr. Mainuli once again stated the key budget drivers in this budget are salaries and health benefits, accounting for 80% of the operating budget.

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Superintendent Quesnel stated questions and suggestions regarding the budget should be answered prior to the scheduled Public Hearing on December 16th, 6:30 PM.

Ms. Pet suggested having a student present at the budget presentation to the Town Council on February 26th, 7: 00 PM. Chairman Currey stated he would review this request.

A possible date of 12/18, 6:00 PM, is being considered for an additional budget meeting, but not confirmed at this time.

MOTION By Tyron Harris
Seconded by Tom Rup
To adjourn the Special Budget Meeting of the Board (8:23 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald

APPROVED BY BOARD OF EDUCATION