

**Bolton Board of Finance
Special Meeting
March 28, 2018 – 7:15 PM
Town Hall**

Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Robert Munroe, Vice Chair Robert Flowers, Robert DePietro, Robert Galle, Emily Bradley, Richard Tuthill, and Matthew Maulucci

Others Present: Town Administrative Officer Joyce Stille, Finance Director Jill Collins, First Selectman Sandra Pierog, Superintendent Kristin Heckt, and Board of Education Chair Elizabeth Krueger

1) Call to Order: R. Munroe called the meeting to order at 7:20pm.

2) Public Participation: None

3) Presentation and Discussion of the Board of Education FY 2019 Budget Request:

K. Heckt and E. Krueger presented the Board of Education FY 2019 budget request to the Board of Finance. The 2018-2019 proposed budget is \$14,233,762, a 2.58% increase. E. Krueger went over the priorities of Bolton public schools as well as the enhancements, reductions, and challenges for the schools. The largest portion of the proposed budget is salaries and benefits. Some funds were added to the budget by the Board of Education to make sure that computers can be updated.

The enhancements include a part-time special education teacher for visually impaired children, an additional kindergarten teacher, and a part-time Chinese teacher. The special education teacher is needed to support several children in town. Hiring a full-time teacher is more cost effective than outplacing than the children and provides better service to Bolton families. The additional kindergarten teacher is needed in order to provide the best learning environment to the youngest learners. Current class sizes are 24 and 25.

Three capital proposals were discussed- a phone system upgrade, a maintenance activity van, and an auto floor scrubber. A portion of the phone system project will be covered by an E-rate Grant.

Enrollment for the last two years and the projected enrollment for 2018-2019 was reviewed. Projected enrollment of students from Columbia is 52. The projected Columbia tuition per student cost does not reflect transportation or special education costs. Columbia provides transportation and is billed separately for special education costs.

The technology needs were discussed for now and future years. A technology information sheet presented listed met and unmet needs by school. The Board of Finance requested to see the technology replacement cycle.

E. Krueger elaborated on the printed answer to the question regarding teacher salaries. R. Galle asked about the decrease for special education. It reflects some children aging out and some savings by the state.

The BCBA position to be shared with Coventry was discussed. In the proposed budget, only the 0.6 of the position that would be used by Bolton is included. J. Stille and S. Pierog explained that the full cost of the position needs to be included in the budget. The solution is for the Board of Education to put the full cost of the position in their budget and for the town to realize that Coventry will pay the town for their 0.4 and it becomes revenue to the Town. The payment goes into the general fund. Conceptually the salary and benefits for school will go up, but when the town is paid by Coventry, the net cost will be for the 0.6.

Bolton, both school and Town, is trying very hard to maintain a good relationship with Columbia on all levels. Bolton is trying to get involved in more activities, like sports and music, to build friendships between the students. K. Heckt reviewed the district's accomplishments.

R. DePietro asked about the cost per student in comparison to the price that Columbia is charged for tuition. R. Tuthill asked about the marginal cost of adding additional students. It is not straight division due to transportation, special education, and overhead costs. It is also hard to assign a cost to the value of being able to offer a great range of classes due to the additional students.

The Board of Finance thanked the Board of Education for their budget and presentation.

4) Discussion on FY2019 Budget:

R. Munroe stated that the budget had already been discussed.

5) Distribution of the FY2017 Financial Statements:

J. Collins handed out the FY2017 audit. R. Munroe asked the members of the Board of Finance to send him any questions they may have about the audit.

6) Review of Budget Calendar:

R. Munroe shared that the public hearing listed on 5/8 needs to be moved to 5/1. R. Galle made a motion to reschedule the public hearing from 5/8 to 5/1. R. Tuthill seconded the motion. Motion unanimous, with all members voting yes. The next scheduled meeting is Thursday 4/5.

7) Adjournment: R. Munroe adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebekah Rupert
Recording Secretary

Please see the minutes of subsequent meetings for the approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.