

**Bolton Board of Finance
Special Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2019-7:15 p.m.
Town Hall**

Members Present: Chairman Robert Munroe, Vice Chair Emily Bradley, Robert DePietro, Robert Flowers, Robert Galle, Matthew Maulucci (arrived at 7:29 p.m.) and Richard Tuthill

Members Excused: None

Others Present: First Selectman Sandra Pierog, Town Administrative Officer Joyce Stille, Superintendent of Schools Kristin Heckt, BOE Director of Business and Finance Kusal Huynh, BOE members Anne Decker, Susan Pike, Chris Davey, Scott Rich and 2 members of the public

1. Call to Order: Chairman R. Munroe called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

2. Public Participation: No public comment

3. Presentation and Discussion of the Board of Education FY2020 Budget Request

Superintendent Kristin Heckt presented a handout titled “Bolton Public Schools Portrait of a Graduate”. Students have multiple opportunities to excel from kindergarten through High School. Additional AP and elective courses are available including a new manufacturing program with Goodwin College.

The 2019-2020 budget is \$14,525,118. This is an increase of \$323,686 (2.28%). Salaries are the largest part of the budget and the largest part of the increase. The salary increase reflects the current union contract and includes the hiring of two full-time paraprofessionals.

Columbia enrollment is projected to remain the same at 54 students. There are shared services with EASTCONN for food service and technology support. The shared relationship with Coventry for the Chinese teacher is working well. There are three retirements and one resignation expected. Capital proposals include school security upgrades. A grant has been submitted and the status should be known within the next few weeks.

New science and social studies standards are out and they are working on the roll out. The technology replacement cycle is mostly current. High school accreditation will be in October at a cost of around \$24,000. Connecticut schools are focused on accreditation and it is helpful tool to compare to other districts.

R. Tuthill asked for clarification on Page 7 of the proposed budget. The unaudited expenditure was 5.7 million and the proposed budget is 6.1 million. K. Heckt replied that this was due to some teachers leaving at top step and some are not. The replacement of the retiring person will be difficult because of special certification. They are the only one who teaches a course. Without them, the whole program is lost.

E. Bradley questioned several statuses: Technology replacements, sports equipment and uniforms, textbooks and new programs. K. Heckt noted that technology replacements are current, sports equipment and uniforms are current, new math and science textbooks will be needed, there has been increased focus on classroom libraries and a new AP computer science program will be available. She offered that instrument replacements had been lacking in the music program. A Title 4 grant received for replacement of musical instruments.

There was discussion on the Choice program. The number of students in the Choice program is about 54 with a tuition reimbursement of \$8,000 for each student. The full outplacement cost is paid by Bolton with reimbursement received at a later date. K. Heckt said that the unknown timing of reimbursement is a concern. Choice grant funds have been used discretionally for many purposes including tennis court repair, technology program and text books.

R. Munroe noted that a number of efforts have been undertaken to reduce costs including using CHIT for insurance purposes. Fringe benefit costs are difficult to predict as some staff members are increasing their insurance coverage. There may be some other play once open enrollment is complete

R. Tuthill asked for the costs of electric and propane at the Bolton Center School and the High School so that he could make a comparison. K. Huynh will provide him with the data he needs. The Board of Finance thanked the Board of Education for their budget and presentation.

4. Discussion on FY2020 Budget

Revenues will be available for review at the April 4, 2019 meeting.

5. Review of Budget Calendar

The Board agreed to the scheduled meetings as previously proposed.

6. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 9:05p.m.

Next Meetings:

April 4, 2019-Special Meeting 7:15 PM Town Hall

April 9, 2019-Special Meeting 7:15 PM Town Hall

April 18, 2019-Regular Meeting 7:15 PM Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie J. Brand

Leslie Brand
Recording Secretary

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