

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
CANTERBURY, CONNECTICUT**

Date: Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School-Media Center

Special Meeting

Approved 1/15/2019

A. Call of Quorum and Pledge of Allegiance

In attendance from the Board of Education (BOE): John Gentry, Vice-Chairperson; Nancy Duvall, BOE Secretary; Walt Petruniw; Tom Dufort; Vivian Thumper, via phone

Absent: Bridgett LaBrecque, Leticia Velasquez

Others Present: Dr. Lois DaSilva-Knapton, Superintendent; Mr. Flahive, School Transportation Consultants

John Gentry, Vice- Chairperson called the Board of Education meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

B Special Purpose

1. RFP Buses-BOE open discussion

The Superintendent introduced Mr. Flahive a consultant from School Transportation Consultants. Mr. Flahive talked about the RFP, the companies that bided on the RFP. The Canterbury buses would be used and an amount would be paid to the Town. Evaluation on the fleet is a total of 10 buses and 3 vans in the amount of \$295,000 which would be paid monthly over 5 years. The two lowest bids are EASTCONN and Dattco. He stated the majority of schools in CT are outsourced. The next step would be to interview both companies.

C. Public Comments

Mr. Weeks asked about the proposal of selling the buses? Routes the contract are based on? Late start, snow days, field trips, etc.? Are there any options to opt out?

The Superintendent stated she has been in contact with the Firstselectman. The Firstselectman stated he had one meeting with the Superintendent regarding this, which he feels is not necessary in contact. He also feels the BOS was disrespected in the process. The Town owns the buses and the garage facilities, he feels the BOS should have been part of the process. Mr. Lippke, Firstselectman stated he does not like to make rash decisions, and we should do a comparison per route or per mile and feels this is a great place to start. The Superintendent stated the meeting they had was with the consultant and ask specifics about the maintenance of the buses.

A parent stated the material handed out tonight is pathetic

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Bus drivers had many concerns including will they lose all their benefits? The Superintendent said she told numerous bus drivers about the RFP. She wanted to show the BOE that there are other options regarding transportation. There will be additional discussions/conversation regarding this process. Canterbury transportation cost is just under \$900,000.

Many other comments/concerns were made regarding outsourcing transportation.

D. Adjournment at 7:00 p.m. By: Walt Petruniw Second: Tom Dufort

Respectfully submitted (via recorder)
By: Dottie Horn, BOE recorder