**CANTERBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**45 WESTMINSTER ROAD**

**CANTERBURY, CONNECTICUT**

**Approved 4-18-2017**

**Board of Education Meeting March 7, 2017**

**Location: Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School Library Time: 7:00 p.m.**

**Joint Meeting with the Board of Finance**

**(Draft)**

1. **ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER:**

In Attendance from the Board of Education (BOE): Walt Petruniw, Chairperson;

John Gentry, Christopher Lippke, Leticia Velasquez

Absent: Stephen Brown, Vivian Thumser, Nancy Duvall

In Attendance from the Board of Finance (BOF): Louis Pecaroro Chairperson, Raymond Sulich, Vice-Chairperson; Ellen Chalfant, Robert Droesch, William Chalfant

Mr. Pecoraro stated the BOF has a quorum.

Others Present: Dr. Lois Knapton, Superintendent; Ryan Earley, BMS Principal; Jodi Davis, Special Education Director; Sarah Cary, Principal CES, and Janice Thurlow, Finance Director

Chairperson, Walter Petruniw, called the Canterbury Board of Education (BOE) meeting to order once a quorum was established at 7:05 p.m.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
2. **COMMENTS FROM VISITORS**

None

1. **ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS**

None

1. **PRESENTATION OF THE 2017-2018 BOARD OF EDUATION BUDGET TO THE BOARD OF FINANCE**

Janice Thurlow, Finance Director discussed the following:

* History of our school budgets
* Fund balance
* Tuition
* CIP
* Used the surplus of $105,000 to fund the blacktop at BMS and leave the monies in CIP to fund the remainder of the blacktop
* The Superintendent stated that they did not knowingly over budget by $250,000
* Mr. Sulich, Vice-Chairperson BOF stated that you cannot transfer

$100,000 from account to account, you have to get the citizens to agree to it.

* Mr. Sulich also asked if the BOE took into account the1.5 million dollars cut from the funding from the State. The Superintendent stated yes they did, and she cannot go below the MBR.

Mr. Petruniw stated he attended a meeting at EASTCONN and they

had an attorney from CABE discuss the Governor’s proposals.

The instruction that were provided at the meeting were to go ahead

with your regular budget as the governor’s proposals can change in a week.

Mr. Sulich asked if there is a certain date where you can lay off

personnel, the Superintendent stated it is April 1st and May 1st depending on

the contract.

The Superintendent presented the 2017-2018 school budget to the BOF

discussion included:

* Summary of the 2017-2018 school budget (line by line)
* Budget responsibly for the education of the student
* Reduced personnel
* Reduced negotiations
* Reduced Special Education tuition
* Firmed up High School numbers
* Reduced medical benefits
* Reduced Spanish position to .05
* Reduced a .5 BMS clerk position
* Adjusted personnel for retirement- when they retired they are at the top pay scale and we could hire a new teacher at a lower pay scale
* Medical insurance cost almost $30,000
* NFA, Woodstock and Griswold have set their tuition for next year
* Added a first grade teacher position
* Final .21 percent increase
* Salaries and benefits 60% of our budget and up 1.55%

Ms. Cary, Principal CES discussed the following:

* Increase a first grade teacher due to class size (22 students per class)

Mr. Earley, Principal BMS discussed the following:

* Population decreasing
* Plan to move forward with Teams of teacher with grade 5/6 and 7/8.
* Certification needs by the State Department of Education
* Reducing the number of teachers at the content level area
* Reducing the number of changes in assignments over the years

Mrs. Davis, Special Education Director

* Keeping our special education students in house
* Reduce special education cost by 50% in the last 8 years
* Keep numbers low in grades K-8

The Superintendent discussed the following:

Tuition

* 27% of our budget is tuition
* High school students have many schools to choose from

Facilities, transportation, and technology

* 5% of our budget
* Down 8.6%

Special Services

* 4.5% of our budget
* Has gone up 7%
* Summer programs
* Assessing the students
* NECC program one in each building
* OT and PT

District and Support Services

* 4.11% of our budget
* Up 18%
* Liability insurance (this item was a large jump)

Instructional Supplies

* .67% of our budget
* Up 12%
* Less than 1% of our budget

In conclusion, I am asking you to support this budget of $11,495,601 -0.21% increase in the amount of $24,542.

Supporting documents:

* Class size with teachers
* NESDEC historical enrollment
* Housing Data Profile
* Canterbury Staffing and Wages
* High School Tuition Sheet
* List of Grants

Walt Petruniw stated that the Board of Education voted to reduce the CIP for 2017-2018 fiscal year was budgeted at $465,000 we reduced this by $180,000 for a new total of $285,000.

Firstselectman, Roy Piper gave a presentation of the Town proposed 2017-18 budget.

1. **COMMENTS FROM VISITORS**

None

1. **ADJOURMENT**

Motion: To adjourn at 8:15p.m.

By: Leticia Velasquez

Second: John Gentry

All in favor

Motion passes

Louis Pecoraro, BOF Chairperson adjourned their portion of the

meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lois DaSilva-Knapton,

Acting BOE Secretary