

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
CANTERBURY, CONNECTICUT**

Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School-Media Center

Approved 4-9-2019

**A. Call of Quorum and Pledge of Allegiance**

**Attendance :** Vivian Thumser, Chairperson; Nancy Duvall, Secretary; Walt Petruniw; Tom Dufort; Bridgett LaBrecque,

**Absent:** John Gentry, Leticia Velasquez

**Administration:** Dr. Lois DaSilva-Knapton, Superintendent; Sarah Cary, Principal CES; Jeff Ferranti, Pupil Service Director; Michele Demicco, Director of Finance and Operations.

**Guests:**

Vivian Thumser called the Board of Education meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Michele Demicco, the new Director of Finance and Operations was introduced.

*A special mention was made for Donna Green, how much she has done for the schools and how she will be missed.*

**B. BOE Budget Workshop**

Dr. Knapton presented, for discussion, the most current version of the Budget draft, which included new additions totaling \$92,000 and reductions totaling \$659,658; resulting in a 1.41% increase.

**C. Comments from Visitors**

Residents asked about the addition of a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher for next year due to class size. The importance of the music teacher for CES, the Library coordinator for CES was discussed, as well as, and the consumer science teacher for BMS.

Mrs. May and Mr. Beits both discussed their concern for the future of the music program for the town as a whole if the CES position is not filled. If Mr. Beits has to cover both schools, he will not be able to carry the program as it exists today and the children will feel the impact of that change. Adding the music position back into the budget results in a 2.11% increase.

The donation of \$50,000 that was given to the school years ago was brought up as it has not been used. It is only slated for instructional aid use so it was discussed to remove the math and science text budget lines from CES totaling approx. \$28,000 and half of the budget line for library books for BMS (\$2025) to allow the donation to fund them, while reducing the budget to allow for the music position to be added back in, which brings the increase to 1.84%

Residents discussed cutting the Spanish program and how much of an impact that would be educational wise as well as budget wise.

A resident suggested asking all staff to reduce their raises by half the amount allowing the other half to go back to the budget to offset the increase. It was mentioned that all raised are contractual and not something that is a legal option. Raises, and benefits are negotiated at the time of contract renewal and most contracts are for a 3 year term.

**Motion:** To accept the budget with changes discussed to be presented to the BOF

**By:** Tom Dufort

**Second:** Walt Petruniw

**All in Favor**

**Motion passes**

#### **D. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. By: Tom Dufort 2nd: Walt Petruniw

Respectfully submitted by: Nancy Duvall, Secretary