

Educational Resources Committee

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education Educational Resources Committee met on Thursday, August 31, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut.

Committee members present: Dr. Taylor, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Moore, Mr. Augur

Committee members absent: Mr. Yamartino

Other BOE members present: Dr. Friedrich

Administration present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools, Kim Neubig, Business Manager

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mrs. Geraci, the agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes – June 7, 2017

On a motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mrs. Boyle the agenda was approved. Abstained: Mr. Augur, Dr. Taylor and Mrs. Geraci. It was reiterated that the meeting officially began at 6:20 p.m. with the arrival of Mrs. Boyle as stated in the minutes.

Review of formula for per pupil expenditure

Kim Neubig, Business Manager presented a PowerPoint presentation to review the formula used to determine Net Current Expenditure/Per Pupil Expenditure. The most recent audited information is from the 2015-2016 school year. Net current expenditures are divided by enrollment.

Mrs. Boyle encouraged board members to go to the state website to look at PSIS. Mrs. Boyle requested that Dr. Veronesi share this information as part of new board member orientation. Mr. Augur suggested that during the budget process we graph our numbers over time and graph our comparison to other towns and other regional school districts. Dr. Friedrich asked if we can work with a live document to look at reductions to the budget and impact on NCE which could be included as part of the budget process.

Update of state budget

No final information has been shared at this time.

Review of potential impact on towns

Mr. Moore reviewed the potential cuts to ECS funding to Durham and Middlefield which are \$3,895,303 and \$2,099,315 respectively.

Review of request from first selectmen

Mr. Moore indicated that a request was made to Dr. Veronesi and Mr. Moore to request a one million dollar cut to the Board of Education.

Discussion of board response/action

Dr. Veronesi reviewed with the committee that there had been a decision to have a facilitated meeting with the Boards of Finance and the Board of Education in preparation for the 2018-2019 budget. Given the current budget situation, the suggestion was made to have this meeting in September to discuss the request and the potential action steps. The Board of Education was interested in having Matt Ritter facilitate the meeting; the selectmen would like to have Jim Finley. The ERC committee decided to invite Attorney Ritter to the Board of Education on September 13th to talk with the full board and if agreed to by the two towns, have a joint meeting without an attorney immediately following the board meeting. Dr. Veronesi will email Ed Bailey and Laura Francis to share this information and ask for confirmation on a joint meeting to be held immediately following the Board of Education meeting.

The committee talked about various approaches to making cuts if this is the final decision; how to share information with the public and whether a referendum would be necessary if the current approved budget was reduced.

Public Comment

Carl Stoup said that these are tough times and we may have to make cuts that are lower than we want.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Dr. Friedrich and seconded by Mrs. Boyle the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.