

To: Patrick O'Sullivan - Town Clerk
Date: February 12, 2021
From: Mary Shaw - BOE



**Orange Board of Education
2nd Budget Workshop Minutes
February 9, 2021
OBOE Conference Room - 2nd Floor
5:00 PM**

Attendance

Present: Chairman Kraut, Mr. Ziman,
Mr. Vitelli, Mrs. Hadlock, Ms. Riccio, Mr. Cap
Mr. Flynn, Mr. Young, Mrs. Browe, Ms. Rodriguez

Also present: Dr. Scarpetti, Dr. Russo, Mr. Gray, Ms. Koch

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Kraut at 5:01 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

***Long Range
Planning
Committee Ad
Hoc Report***

Mrs. Hadlock gave an overview of the updated Long Range Strategic
Planning Plan Goal document, that was shared during the meeting, to help
transition the task of long range planning to each sub-committee as decided
at the January 19, 2021 BOE meeting.

***Committee
Update***

Chairman Kraut shared that our newest Board Member, Ms. Rodriguez,
has been assigned to both the Buildings & Grounds/Safety and Security
and the Curriculum Committees. Committee assignments are now
finalized for the upcoming year.

***2021-2022 Budget
Workshop***

Ms. Riccio kicked off the discussion with an update regarding the 21st
Century program after meeting with the BOE administration last week. It
has been determined that the program is currently losing money, even after
cuts have been made, due to the significant decrease in enrollment.
Despite the loss, the program will remain open for the rest of the year. In
looking ahead, the program needs to determine the number of students that

are needed in order to break for the program to operate going forward. 21st Century enrollment numbers were requested to be shared with the Board at future meetings.

Dr. Scarpetti opened the discussion by continuing where they last left off at the Budget Workshop in January. This included enrollment numbers and the class sections which focused on THS Grade 4 and RBS Grades 1 & 3. He stated the requested increase to the budget from last year is 4.38%.

At this point in the meeting, Chairman Kraut asked Ms. Rodriguez to speak about her knowledge as a former principal for New Haven Public Schools on capping classroom size.

Dr. Scarpetti informed the Board since their last meeting Orange will receive funds from the ESSER II grant. Some of the funds from this grant will address COVID relat PPE and support the Technology department.

Items that are not included in the proposed budget are additional Teachers, Upgrades to School Kitchens, Retired Police Officers, Air Conditioning and Busses.

Retired Police Officer vs. Security Monitors

Mr. Gray presented the cost analysis on Security Monitors currently employed versus hiring Retired Police Officers. This was a preliminary analysis and further information will need to be collected. Chairman Kraut asked to have a place holder in the budget for the Security Monitors and referred the idea of hiring Retired Police Officers to the Building & Grounds/Security and Safety Committee for further discussion.

Chairman Kraut called a 10 minute recess at 6:35 PM.

Air Conditioning

Mr. Gray presented the estimated cost of 3.9 million for the installation of air conditioning to all four schools. He based the figures on a feasibility study done in March 2018 and added 10% increase for industry costs. This estimate does not include any of the electrical work required. Board members Charles Flynn and Christian Young spoke about the need for air conditioning in our schools especially now that the importance of air quality has been a focus since the onset of the pandemic. A lengthy discussion ensued touching upon the age of our buildings, astronomical cost of such a project and some Board members feeling strongly that something like this should not be part of our operating budget. Chairman Kraut asked Mr. Gray to look into any type of temporary units that can be brought into our schools to help cool these buildings, especially in gyms, during the warmer months. In conclusion, Chairman Kraut stated that he will reach out to First Selectman Zeoli to discuss the importance of this

issue and will bring the topic back to the Board as an agenda item at a future BOE Meeting.

Busses/Transportation

At a previous BOE meeting, there was discussion regarding the time length of the bus routes since it was part of a policy that was on the agenda for a 2nd read. Mr. Gray presented the costs of our contracted bus services for 2021-2022 if the Board considered adding driver(s) to make the routes shorter in length of time. Discussion ensued. Chairman Kraut suggested that we monitor the bus routes and invite bus drivers to be a part of a meeting at the end of September 2021 and again in January 2022 to see how the routes are going. Personnel/Policy/Transportation sub committee would be involved as well.

Insurance

The increased cost of insurance hit the budget hard last year. Board members have expressed concern on the matter especially since we are self-insured. The idea of going to a State plan was discussed but for many reasons the Town is not interested in switching. Ms. Riccio also recommended reaching out to ACES to gain information on their Health Insurance Collaborative. Dr. Scarpetti informed the Board the health consultant has been contacted to do an analysis. This would be looked into further by the BOE administration.

Dr. Scarpetti wrapped up the budget discussion by sharing that he had a conversation today with John Ciferelli, Finance Director for the Town of Orange. Mr. Cifarelli was looking for a status on our budget as a placeholder. Dr. Scarpetti shared that the BOE budget is looking at 4.38% increase at this time.

Motion on 2021-2022 Budget

Ms. Riccio *made a motion* to approve the FY 2021-2022 budget not to exceed 4.38%. Mr. Ziman *seconded the motion*. Discussion took place. Mr. Flynn *amended Ms. Riccio's motion* to include HVAC improvements at Turkey Hill School and Race Brook School for \$1,782,630 along with the Superintendent's proposed budget. Mr. Young *seconded the amended motion* made by Mr. Flynn. Discussion took place. Board members stated that these types of improvements should not be part of the BOE budget. Mr. Flynn reiterated that he believes it is right to act on pursuing these improvements at this time. The motion failed 2/8/0. Mr. Flynn and Mr. Young voted aye, Mr. Kraut, Mr. Cap, Mr. Ziman, Mr. Vitelli, Ms. Riccio, Ms. Rodriguez, Mrs. Hadlock and Mrs. Browe voted nay. Ms. Riccio *made a motion* to approve the FY 2021-2022 budget not to exceed 4.38%. Mr. Ziman *seconded the motion*. Unanimous passed.

Ms. Riccio made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm. Mr. Ziman seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Shaw

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