

Board of Education

Regional District 13

November 18, 2015

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 in the Music Room at Brewster School, 126 Tuttle Rd., Durham, CT at 7:00 p.m. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle (8:20 PM), Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Also present: Mr. Melnik, Business Manager, Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. after it was determined that a quorum was present.

Mrs. Flanagan led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Administrator Welcome

Mrs. Heckler, Principal of Brewster School welcomed the Board of Education. Mrs. Heckler stated that Brewster School is focusing on the Core Ethical Values. She updated the Board on events taking place at Brewster School such as a monthly recognition assembly showcasing one of the Core Ethical Values through literature. She also mentioned the research work being done by the first graders on space and tweeting with an astronaut bringing technology into the curriculum.

Public Comment

Mrs. Elder of Middlefield stated that she is representing the taxpayers of Middlefield and would like a zero increase in the 2015-2016 budget. She also would like to know the cost of field trips the Board is approving and recommended that the recording secretary provide more detail in the minutes.

Next Board Meeting

Next Board meeting will be held on December 9, 2015 at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the agenda. Mrs. Adams seconded.

In favor of approving agenda: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of October 14, 2015

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the minutes of October 14, 2015. Dr. Friedrich seconded.

In favor of approving the minutes of October 14, 2015: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Mr. Willett abstained. Motion passed.

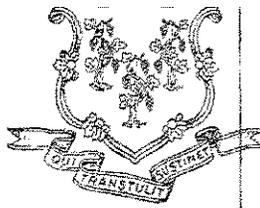
Communications

Mrs. Flanagan asked Board members to refer to the email from Senator Kennedy that was forwarded today from Mrs. Allen regarding Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR). Mrs. Flanagan would like a copy of this email attached to the minutes.

Mr. Renninghoff reported that a Middlefield resident contacted him regarding the recent football incident. The resident is frustrated with the situation and feels that we should get rid of football because of the drama.

Twelfth District

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Hartford, CT 06106-1591
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State of Connecticut
SENATE

MAJORITY WHIP
Chair
Environment Committee
Ranking Member
Internship Committee
Member
Public Health Committee
Transportation Committee

October 27, 2015

Ms. Kerrie Flanagan
Chair, Board of Education
700R Haddam Quarter Road
Durham, CT 06422

Dear Chairwoman Flanagan:

I am writing to you regarding the recent passage of Public Act 15-99 by the General Assembly entitled "An Act Concerning the Minimum Budget Requirement." As you may be aware, this legislation enacts important changes to Connecticut's minimum budget requirement (MBR) for local education spending, and I wanted to take this opportunity to make you aware of these changes and what they might mean for your community.

As State Senator for the 12th Senate District, I understand the adverse impact that elements of the MBR have had on schools within my District. As certain schools face declining student enrollment, they have been unable to reallocate funds due to the constraints of the MBR under prior law. Thanks to the passage of PA 15-99 earlier this year, Connecticut has recognized that the MBR cannot be sustained as a one-size-fits-all model.

The changes enacted under PA 15-99 include the following:

- An increase in the per-student reduction allowed for decreased enrollment;
- An increase in the overall cap on how much municipalities can reduce their MBR;
- Removal of the limit on the number of ways municipalities can reduce their MBR;
- Creation of a two-tiered mechanism for reductions based on declining enrollment centered on the percentage of students eligible for free and reduced price lunch; and
- Repeal of the MBR for school districts with DPI scores in the top 10 percent of all Connecticut districts.

Please find enclosed a summary of the new legislation prepared by the General Assembly's Office of Legislative Research. If you have any questions regarding this new law and how it may impact your school district, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Ted Kennedy, Jr.
State Senator, 12th Senate District

PA 15-99—sHB 7019

Education Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINIMUM BUDGET REQUIREMENT

SUMMARY: This act (1) extends, to FY 16 and FY 17, the minimum budget requirement (MBR) for local education spending; (2) exempts certain high-performing school districts from the MBR; and (3) expands a town's authority to reduce its MBR under specified circumstances.

The MBR requires towns receiving Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grants to budget a minimum annual amount for education. Prior law allowed a town, with certain limitations, to reduce its MBR if it (1) experienced a decrease in student enrollment, (2) could demonstrate savings through increased efficiencies or regional collaborations, or (3) was a district without a high school that paid tuition for its students to attend high school out of town and the number of high school students declined. Prior law allowed a town to choose one of these three methods but allowed an additional method not tied to the others: MBR reduction for savings related to closing a school due to declining enrollment.

The act (1) maintains these permitted MBR reductions through FY 17, (2) increases the maximum MBR reduction for drops in student enrollment and establishes a new mechanism for such reductions, and (3) allows a town to reduce its MBR under more than one condition.

The act prohibits alliance district towns from reducing their MBR. (PA 15-5, June Special Session, § 511, specifies the prohibition applies to current or former alliance districts.) Under prior law, the education commissioner could approve an MBR reduction for an alliance district town if it could demonstrate that it had increased its local contribution for education in that fiscal year. Alliance districts are the 30 school districts with the lowest District Performance Index (DPI) (see BACKGROUND) in the state.

It also repeals obsolete language regarding the MBR and the minimum expenditure requirement (the MBR's precursor) and makes a number of technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

MBR FOR FY 16 & 17

The act extends the MBR to FYs 16 and 17, while making several changes to it. Under the act, each town's base MBR is the amount it budgeted for education in the previous fiscal year plus any ECS aid increase received from the state.

The act exempts from the MBR school districts that have DPI scores in the top 10% of all districts statewide.

CHANGES TO MBR REDUCTIONS

Under prior law, towns could reduce their MBR by only one of the methods the law provided (a reduction due to a school closing was exempt from this restriction). These were reductions due to:

1. decreased enrollment,

<http://cgalites/2015/SUM/2015SUM00099-R02HB-07019-SUM.htm>

10/27/2015

2. documented savings from increased efficiencies or regional collaboration, or
3. declines in the number of high school students in districts without high schools that pay tuition for their students to attend high school out of town.

The act removes the limit on the number of these MBR reduction methods a town can use.

Reduction Due to Enrollment Decline

Under prior law, a town could reduce its MBR due to an enrollment decrease by \$3,000 for each student no longer enrolled up to a limit of 0.5% of the town's education budget for the previous fiscal year. The act increases the per student dollar amount to 50% of the school district's net current expenditure (NCE) per resident student.

The act defines NCE per resident student as, in any school year, the NCE (see BACKGROUND) for a school year divided by the town's number of resident students for the same school year. Resident students are the number of students that a school district must educate.

In addition, the act creates a two-tiered mechanism for determining the maximum MBR reduction for declining enrollment based on the percentage of students eligible for free and reduced price lunch (FRPL) under the federal school lunch law. Under this provision, districts with (1) 20% or more of their students qualifying for FRPL can reduce their MBR by up to 1.5% and (2) less than 20% of students eligible for FRPL can reduce their MBR by up to 3%.

The act specifies that the decreasing student enrollment reduction for FY 16 must use the data of record as of January 31, 2015 and consider the decrease in the student count from October 1, 2013 to October 1, 2014. The student enrollment reduction for FY 17 must use the data of record as of January 31, 2016 and consider the decrease in the student count from October 1, 2014 to October 1, 2015.

Potential Additional MBR Reduction

Furthermore, the act allows towns in either FRPL tier to exceed the MBR reduction limits described above if (1) the education commissioner approves, following a review of the proposed reduction, and (2) the town's board of education approves by a vote held at a duly called meeting.

Other MBR Reductions Extended

The act maintains three other types of MBR reductions allowed in FYs 14 and 15 under prior law:

1. A town without a high school that pays tuition to other towns for its resident students to attend there and is paying for fewer students than it did in the previous year can reduce its MBR by the full amount of its lowered tuition payments.
2. A town can reduce its MBR to reflect half of any new and documented savings from (a) increased efficiencies within its school district, as long as the education commissioner approves the savings, or (b) a regional collaboration or cooperative arrangement with at least one other district. This reduction is limited to a maximum of 0.5% of the FY 15 MBR.

3. A town that is permanently closing a school due to declining enrollment at the school in FYs 13 to 16, inclusive, may be granted an MBR reduction for FYs 16 and 17 in an amount to be determined by the education commissioner.

BACKGROUND

DPI

A school district's DPI is its students' weighted performance on the statewide mastery tests in reading, writing, and mathematics given in grades three through eight and 10 or 11 and science in grades five, eight, and 10 or 11. Under PA 15-5, June Special Session, §§ 326-333, SDE is authorized to revise the performance index for measuring academic achievement.

NET CURRENT EXPENDITURES (NCE)

A district's NCEs are its total education expenditures, excluding (1) student transportation, (2) capital costs supported by school construction grants and debt service, (3) adult education, (4) health services for private school students, (5) tuition, (6) income from federally- and state-aided school meal programs, and (7) fees for student activities (CGS § 10-261(a)(3)).

OLR Tracking: JM: RP: PF: cmg

RESOLUTIONS
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 13

RESOLVED: That, **effective as of July 1, 2015**, in accordance with Section 8.5 of the Defined Benefit Pension Plan for Employees of Regional School District No. 13 ("Pension Plan") and the governing guidelines in effect for the Pension Committee, the Board hereby re-appoints the following persons, whose existing original terms have expired, to serve on the Pension Committee for the new terms that are set forth next to each of their names below, with such new terms commencing July 1, 2015:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>
Mary Jane Parsons	Two years
Rebecca Adams	Two years

RESOLVED: That, **effective as of November 18, 2015**, in accordance with Section 8.5 of the Pension Plan and the guidelines in effect for the Pension Committee, replacement, the Board hereby appoints Eileen ("Tippi") Popp to serve as a member of the Pension Committee to fill the remainder of the term of Maureen Johnson, who has resigned from the Pension Committee, effective November 18, 2015, which resignation has created a vacancy on the Pension Committee that the Board is hereby filling by appointing Eileen ("Tippi") Popp to fill such vacancy and serve on the Pension Committee for the remainder of Maureen Johnson's three-year term on the Pension Committee through June 30, 2017, when Maureen Johnson's original term on the Pension Committee would have otherwise expired.

Certification

I, _____, Secretary of the Board of Education of the Regional School District No. 13, do certify that the foregoing Resolutions of the Board of Education of the Regional School District No. 13 were adopted at a meeting of the Board of Education of the Regional School District No. 13, duly-convened and held on the _____ day of November, 2015 at which meeting a quorum was present and voting throughout, and that such Resolutions are in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this _____ day of November, 2015.

Secretary

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Mrs. Fronc stated that Matthew DeKoeper of Durham approached her regarding the football situation and offered to help with coaching.

Mr. Hicks stated that he attended a retirement send off for Mrs. Allen at First and Last in Middletown. He said that Mrs. Allen will be missed. He also shared that the Durham Fair Association has adopted the District's 5 Core Ethical Values. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bajoros, a Family and Consumer Science/Health teacher at CRHS reported on events taking place with regard to the Unified Sports program and thanked the Board for their continued support of this program.

Business Manager's Report

Mr. Melnik reported that the Brewster Roof Project is almost done and will be reviewing the punch list next week. He stated that the project is within budget and the application to the state for repayment is being completed.

Mr. Melnik stated that the renovations to Central Office will begin in December. He also informed the Board of the training the Central Office staff has been and will be receiving over the next couple of months.

Keeping in line with the auditors' recommendation of positive pay, the District will be changing banks in January 2016. He will keep the Board apprised of this change as it progresses.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Veronesi updated the Board on the events taking place at CRHS regarding the football team, and spirit day taking place this coming week. Dr. Veronesi was asked to give the welcome address on that day and is looking forward to this positive event.

As part of the local wellness committee Stephanie Moran has visited a number of local organizations hanging colored paper representing the District's Core Ethical Values. As mentioned by Mr. Hicks the Durham Fair Association has just adopted these values.

Dr. Veronesi informed the Board of a recent professional development day featuring Alice Keeler, a certified Google teacher and author as the keynote speaker. The District has moved to a Google platform and the professional day provided workshops on email, calendar and google documents headed by our on-site experts.

Seven of our educators are enrolled in a CAS Leadership program. This program builds skills for teachers to become leaders in their building.

Noelle Durkin was recognized at the Bushnell as Teacher of the Year for District 13. She will be recognized at the December Board meeting.

Dr. Veronesi stated how grateful she was to be a part of District 13 and praised the Board members and the District's team of administrators who put students first. She gave special recognition to CRHS staff for the way they handled the recent challenges at the high school.

Mrs. Fronc asked if the Washington, DC will be rescheduled. Dr. Veronesi stated that they are looking for a date in March and will keep the Board updated.

In closing her report, Dr. Veronesi stated she will be following the framework of Dr. Perlini regarding budget parameters and priorities.

Pension Committee Resolution

Mr. Melnik reviewed the purpose of the pension committee and stated that due to changes in responsibilities of staff at Central Office Mrs. Johnson is resigning as a member of the Pension Committee and will be replaced by Mrs. Popp.

Mr. Hicks read the Pension Committee Resolution of the Board of Education of Regional School District No. 13.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the Pension Committee Resolution as presented. Dr. Onofreo seconded.

In favor of approving the Pension Committee Resolution: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Food and Beverage Fundraiser Request Forms Approval

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the food and beverage fundraiser requests forms as presented. Mrs. Fronc seconded.

In favor of approving the food and beverage fundraiser requests forms as presented: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Mrs. Fronc moved to approve the Field Trip Request to New Hampshire February 11 -14, 2016. Mrs. Adams seconded.

Mr. Hicks stated that although the trip is local, because of the recent events in Paris, the Board would like to be able to cancel this request at a later date if necessary. Mr. Bajoros stated he would make parents and students aware of this possibility.

Mrs. Flanagan also stated that District field trips are not funded by the Board.

In favor of approving the Field Trip Request to New Hampshire February 11-14, 2016 as amended by Mr. Hicks: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Field Trip request to Vermont March 4-6, 2016

Mrs. Fronc moved to approve the Field Trip Request to Vermont March 4 – 6, 2016. Mrs. Adams seconded.

Discussion took place regarding dates of the Washington, DC trip.

Once again, Mr. Hicks would like include although the trip is local, because of the recent events in Paris, the Board would like to be able to cancel this request at a later date if necessary.

In favor of approving the Field Trip Request of Vermont March 4-6, 2016 as amended by Mr. Hicks: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Mr. Willett briefly reviewed safety protocols.

Committee Reports Human Resources

Mrs. Flanagan reported that the committee reviewed and amended the superintendent review form. This form will be distributed at the December Board meeting. The committee is also looking at the substitute pay scale and staffing for 2016-17 as a result of the Korn School closing.

Utilization Committee

Mrs. Flanagan reported that the committee met in October to form sub-committees. A transition team to determine educational impacts will be headed by Dr. Veronesi and a committee to determine alternatives for the use of Korn School will be established. Members of the towns of Durham and Middlefield are being requested to be part of this committee work.

Student Achievement

Mrs. Adams stated that the committee met on November 4 and unfortunately did not have a quorum. Mr. Mongillo, the Technology teacher at Brewster, Korn, and Lyman shared with the committee work of 3rd graders. Mrs. Adams also reported assessments are being discussed and the math committee working with ACES is 70% done. The committee will meet again on December 2 and will update science and social studies work, discuss data teams, and visit STEAM.

Educational Resources

Mrs. Flanagan stated that members of the community football league came to the meeting with several proposals for the completion of the field house. Mr. Francis, Supervisor of Building and Grounds is reviewing proposals and will get back to the committee.

The committee also discussed the banking relationship as mentioned by Mr. Melnik, looked at policies to be revised and taken to the policy committee, capital plan and expenditures, and the debt payment schedule. The committee also discussed the pension plan investment policy.

Mrs. Flanagan thanked Board members for being a hard working team. She commended Mr. Renninghoff on his work with regard to the field house. Mrs. Flanagan wished members of the Board a Happy Thanksgiving.

Other Committee Reports

None

Public Comment

Mrs. Elder stressed that the Board commit to a zero increase in the budget and highly recommended that the Board of Education work closely with the Boards of Middlefield and Durham to achieve this goal.

Adjournment

Mr. Hicks moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. Dr. Friedrich seconded.

In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Johnson

Recording Secretary