

**MINUTES
BOARD OF FINANCE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
April 30, 2019
City Hall Auditorium**

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A **SPECIAL JOINT MEETING** of the Board of Finance and the Board of Education was held in the City Hall Auditorium on Tuesday, April 30, 2019.

Present were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Board of Finance members Laurene Pesce, Chris Beyus, James Wright, Mark Bushka, and Christopher Anderson, and Board of Education members Fiona Cappabianca, John Kissko, Ellen Hoehne, Gary Eucalitto, Armand Maniccia, and Cathleen Todor. Board of Finance member Lance Boynton and Board of Education members Molly Spino, Jessica Richardson, Edward Corey, and Daniel Thibault were absent.

City Comptroller Alice Proulx, Deputy Comptroller Gina Casper, Torrington Public Schools Superintendent Susan Lubomski, Assistant Superintendent Susan Fergusson, Interim Business Manager Ed Arum, and Director of Facilities David Bascetta were also present.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. starting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISCUSSION: TPS BUDGET

Supt. Lubomski presented the proposed budget for the Torrington Public Schools for the fiscal period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. She highlighted some of the major factors driving the proposed budget increase, including out-of-district tuition, salaries and benefits, and emphasized the need for Special Education resources and social-emotional support interventions.


The Board of Finance expressed their concerns regarding the potential impact of the proposed budget on the City's mill rate. Mr. Beyus and Mr. Wright requested clarification regarding Special Education costs. Supt. Lubomski stated that the district adheres to state requirements and guidelines for identifying students in need of Special Education services. Ms. Cappabianca stated that the goal is to invest in Special Education now to save additional costs in the future. Mr. Eucalitto and Ms. Cappabianca cautioned against relying on grants. Mr. Beyus questioned whether leasing East School to EdAdvance will save the City money. Ms. Cappabianca and Mr. Eucalitto stated that it would. Mrs. Pesce inquired about the City's designation as an Alliance District. Supt. Lubomski stated that she hopes to remove the designation in five years by increasing attendance and graduation rates. She expressed optimism for the future of Torrington Public Schools. Ms. Cappabianca and Mr. Eucalitto emphasized the importance of receiving adequate funding to support TPS initiatives.

Mr. Anderson stated that the TPS administration has the responsibility to make cuts in the right places to ensure a bright future for the district. He requested that the Board of Education come back to the Board of Finance with an amended draft budget to reflect a 0% increase from the current fiscal year budget. The Boards agreed to schedule a follow-up meeting at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Pesce, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan R. Draper, Asst. Clerk

ATTEST: 
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK