

**MINUTES
BOARD OF FINANCE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM/ZOOM
APRIL 26, 2022**

A **SPECIAL JOINT MEETING** of the Board of Finance and the Board of Education was held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022. Present at City Hall were Mayor Carbone, City Clerk Carol Anderson, City Comptroller Robin Stanziale, Torrington Public Schools (TPS) Superintendent Susan Lubomski, Board of Finance Member Christopher Beyus, and Board of Education members Fiona Cappabianca, John Kissko, Ellen Hoehne, Jessica Richardson, Cathy Todor, Ed Corey, and Susan DePretis. Public Works Director Ray Drew, Board of Finance Members Mark Bushka, Laurene Pesce, Lance Boynton, and Christopher Anderson joined via Zoom. Board of Finance member James Wright, and Board of Education members Nikki Fappiano, Gary Eucalitto, and Glenn Burger were absent.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

TPS PROPOSED OPERATING, CAPITAL, GENERAL FUND, AND GRANT FUND BUDGET: 2022-2023

Superintendent Lubomski presented the proposed budget for the Torrington Public Schools for the fiscal period from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. She highlighted some of the major factors driving the proposed budget increase, including salaries and benefits, supplies, and other miscellaneous expenses, which is a \$4.2 million (5.49%) increase from last year's budget.

Mr. Beyus asked to see a breakdown of the miscellaneous expenses as that is roughly \$2 million of the proposed budget. Ms. Cappabianca stated that the expense reporting system New World didn't have a way to track COVID expenses separately, so they fell under miscellaneous expenses, that way it is easier for them to be able to report on COVID funds. Mr. Boynton wanted further clarification on the miscellaneous line item on the budget report, Superintendent Lubomski stated that they were adding the new school positions to the miscellaneous budget. Mr. Beyus asked for some clarification on the ESSER Cares Act funds, Superintendent Lubomski explained how they are listed in the budget and the breakdown for what they cover with the funds. Mr. Bushka wanted to know what is going to happen to all the expenditures that are being funded by Federal Funds when the fund runs out, Ms. Cappabianca explained that they are slowly integrating these expenses into the General Budget. Mr. Beyus inquired about the projected revenues for 2023, Superintendent Lubomski stated that they won't have a definite answer until October when all the grant money is awarded. Mr. Boynton wanted to know if the budget would ever get back to pre-covid numbers, Superintendent Lubomski and Ms. Cappabianca answered him regarding the need for extra teachers and the impact that COVID had on children in the schools. Mrs. Pesce wanted to know how attendance in the schools this year was versus when COVID was going on, Superintendent Lubomski stated that the attendance is still down this year, due to contact tracing or other illnesses. Mrs. Pesce also wanted to know how the 10-year capital plan was coming along instead of a 5-year plan, Superintendent Lubomski stated that they are not at that level yet, and they would like to have a Facilities study done before coming up with a 10-year plan. Mr. Bushka asked if the current fiscal year budget for the Board of Education was going to be over or under this year, Superintendent Lubomski said as of right now that they are trending on budget, but they never know what the costs associated with Special Education will be.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Mr. Bushka, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Heather Abraham, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST:


CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK