



TOWN OF COLUMBIA
Fiscal Policy Board
June 10, 2015
Horace W. Porter School Conference Room
8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Bev Ciurylo-Finance Director, Lol Fearon-Superintendent, Natasha Nau-Town Administrator, Earnest Sharpe-FiPAC Chairman, Carmen Vance-First Selectman

Members Absent: Kerry Hoffman-Board of Education Chairperson

I. Call to Order

Mrs. Ciurylo called the June 10, 2015, Fiscal Policy Board meeting to order at 8:43 a.m.

II. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2015

C. Vance **MOVED** and L. Fearon **SECONDED** to approve the April 8, 2015 meeting minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIES: 3-0-2

B. Ciurylo, L. Fearon C. Vance **VOTED FOR THE MOTION**

N. Nau, E. Sharpe **ABSTAINED**

III. Correspondence – none

IV. Old Business

- a. **School Roof Project Update** - Once Charter Oak Mechanical completes their last portion of the project, payment will be made to them.
- b. **Security Grant Update** – \$199,000 has been released to the Town of Columbia. Signage around the school building is unfinished but is not a part of this grant.

V. New Business

- a. **Special Education Tuition Surplus – Mr. Fearon** explained when last year’s budget was prepared, a rather involved student cost was planned for and included. After the budget approval, the student died. The Superintendent and Board of education feel it is the moral obligation to return the budgeted \$101,000 to the Town.
- b. **Non-Lapsing Account/Education Fund Proposal – Mr. Fearon** handed out General Statute 10-248a- Unexpended Education Funds Account. The BOE has authorized the Superintendent to discuss this topic at today’s meeting. The statute allows school districts to deposit up to 1% of unspent budgeted funds from the prior fiscal year into an account to be used for a designated unanticipated cost such as special education or capital. FiPAC would oversee and approve the spending. This fund would not have an impact on MBR or be a “slush” fund. The next step will be to present this proposal to FiPAC. The BOE will create a policy and Memorandum of Agreement for the July FiPAC meeting.

Fiscal Policy members discussed the current gentleman’s agreement between the BOS/BOE that is in place, MBR, specific spending and oversight, and budgeting with the knowledge of this fund.

- c. **Year-End Projections - Mrs. Ciurylo** handed out BOE expenditures through 5/29/15 showing the available fund balance of \$279,611.90. This report does not show recent spending for software, equipment, math/health textbooks, on-going legal fees, repairs/maintenance and the designated special education funds that will be returned to the town. A check run will be done this week and a new report will be sent to members. **Mrs. Ciurylo** is working on BOS projections.
- d. **Expanding CCAT Role** – CCAT maintains the school’s network and servers. They are at the school a couple of days each week, conduct remote updates and are on call for technical problems and questions. **Mr. Fearon** asked if the Town would like to piggyback with the school for these services. It might be a cost savings for the town. **Ms. Nau** will work with the superintendent regarding this matter.

VI. Fiscal Department

Mrs. Ciurylo reported the auditors will be in on June 22nd to take a preliminary look at 2014/2015 information. She is still awaiting word on the uniform chart of accounts.

VII. Audience

- **Mr. Sharpe** inquired about the Board of Education’s vote to switch insurance carriers. **Mr. Fearon** explained after reviewing renewal quotes the Board voted to switch to CTCare. However, after speaking with the district insurance broker, Joe Spurgeon, it was realized that in 2016 the district may not qualify for a nonstandard plan and be considered a small group meaning paying more and reopening employee contracts. Anthem has since come in with a much lower 2015/16 quote. The BOE has decided to stay with Anthem for one more year and in the fall begin looking at other options in preparation of the next budget process.
- **Ms. Vance** said she has heard from a number of people that it is not fair to have so many teachers serving on the strategic plan steering committees. **Mr. Fearon** explained it is important when looking at the future of Porter School to have teachers included. Both steering committee groups will be presenting their findings to the Board of Education on July 13th.
- **Ms. Nau** is working on a Bright Ideas Grant. It is a clean energy communities program that promotes energy reduction and savings.
- **Ms. Nau** explained construction is expected to begin on Saxton B. Free Little Library on September 1st. If an unexpected permit is required and the hiring of a site engineer is necessary, it may cause a 2 month delay.
- **Ms. Vance** asked for an update on MBR legislation and unfunded mandates. **Mr. Fearon** will send a legislative summary to the first Selectman.

VIII. Adjournment

E. Sharpe **MOVED** and N. Nau **SECONDED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m.
MOTION CARRIES: 5-0

The next meeting will be July 8, 2015 @ 8:30 a.m. in the H. W. Porter School Conference Room.