



**TOWN OF COLUMBIA**

**Fiscal Policy Board  
Minutes  
September 12, 2018**

Members Present: Beverly Ciurylo-Finance Director, Christopher Lent-Board of Education Chairman, Mark Walter-Town Administrator, Lol Fearon-Superintendent,

Absent: Ernie Sharpe-FIPAC Chairman, Steven Everett-First Selectman

1. Call to Order – Chairperson B. Ciurylo called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2018 – L. Fearon MOVED, M. Walter SECONDED to approve the minutes of July 11, 2018 as presented. MOTION CARRIES 3:0:1 (C. Lent ABSTAINED).
3. Correspondence – M. Walter received a Five Year Agreement between the Town of Columbia and AHM Youth & Family Services. Mr. Fearon and Mr. Walter both expressed appreciation for the services provided by AHM. Mr. Fearon said the school has been very happy with the services provided by Mrs. Sheri Rivard Lentz. She is a valuable asset to the school.
4. Old Business
  - A) MBR Update – Mr. Fearon and Mrs. Ciurylo met with Kathy Demsey and Kevin Chambers at the State Department of Education on Monday, September 10th. The history and reasons why the BOE budget is under the MBR were presented. L. Fearon explained one outplaced student can be as much as 2% of the BOEs budget in a small district. Mr. Chambers conservatively estimated preliminary MBR figures to be \$215,000 which is lower than originally anticipated. He feels these are very preliminary numbers and it will be at least a month before the figures are confirmed. Mrs. Ciurylo and Mr. Fearon were advised to write to the Commissioner of Education and request a waiver from the State’s legal department. Several other small districts are in similar situations. Mr. Fearon reached out to other districts including Sprague where Cathy

Osten, First Selectman for Sprague and State Senator for our area lives. Mr. Walter will contact Tim Ackert who is also a State Representative.

- B) Update on Board of Education and Board of Selectmen Capital Projects – Mr. Fearon reported the LED lighting project is almost complete on the interior of the building. Exterior fixtures are onsite and will be installed soon. A total of 1200 interior and exterior fixtures will be replaced.

The Cafeteria stairway project is almost complete and is only waiting on the delivery of stair treads.

The Cabling project has gone well. Old cables were removed and all installations are complete. The BOE contracted with Novus Insight as oversight on the project. A call should be made to Novus Insight concerning the amount of time required to oversee the project.

Mr. Walter reported on BOS Capital Projects. He recently walked the exterior of the school along with Michael Sylvester, Lol Fearon and Steven Everett to determine responsibilities for maintenance.

Fencing needs repair or to be replaced in the garden area near the Moors Indian School. Teachers asked for a location to store tools and also for water access to water plants.

Paving at the Town Hall parking lot is to begin Friday, 9/14.

Engineers are preparing more accurate bid specs for the salt shed.

A culvert bridge next to Mono Pond needs to be replaced. Bid specs will be created. The project will most likely occur in 2019-2020 and the anticipated cost is between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

Mr. Walter is hoping to receive the softball field bid specifications today. Plans are to begin work on the field and roadway this fall.

Concrete used at the Village Hill Bridge has developed air pockets and will need to be replaced. Costs will be shared with Lebanon and no payment has been made for the defective material per Mrs. Ciurylo.

The Hop River Bridge should be replaced in the next 3-4 years.

- C) 2017-2018 Year End – Mrs. Ciurylo said the BOE fund balance is \$279,052.10. The anticipated remaining balance for the BOS budget is \$270,027.10. Additional expenditures are anticipated to reduce the BOS balance. Preliminary figures indicate the fund balance has increased to 3.9 million dollars.

## 5. New Business

- A) Non-lapsing Account – Mr. Fearon said the BOE voted to return funds to the BOS and any money beyond \$200,000 to be placed in the non-lapsing account with the understanding the funds would be used to cover the anticipated MBR shortfall. The MBR shortfall was calculated to be approximately \$275,000 but recent preliminary calculations from the State estimate the MBR shortfall to be \$215,000.

Mr. Lent asked when FiPAC meets.

Mrs. Ciurylo responded FiPAC meets on 9/19.

Mr. Lent will schedule a BOE Special Board of Education meeting on 9/17/18 at 6:00 to re-evaluate the BOEs request to FiPAC concerning the non-lapsing account.

Mr. Sharpe will be contacted to request the item be added to FiPACs agenda.

B) Mr. Walter has been approached by staff at Town Hall who are interested in pursuing other retirement investment options with lower costs to the employees. He has been in touch with someone he knows and has worked with in the past to review by both the Town and School's employees retirement plans and possibly put it out to bid.

Mr. Fearon has scheduled a meeting with the Certified and Non Certified Union Presidents to advise them. He noted the certified union contract includes a clause that they will approve the vendor/provider of the plans.

6. Finance Department – Mrs. Ciurylo has filed the ED001 on time and is currently preparing for the audit. Preliminary review by the auditors has gone well.
7. Audience – no comments were received.
8. Adjournment – M. Walter MOVED, L. Fearon SECONDED to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Morey, Clerk