

Town of Columbia
FISCAL POLICY BOARD
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2011

8:00 A.M.

Horace W. Porter School Conference Room

Members Present: Bev Ciurylo-Fiscal Manager, Francine Coss-Superintendent, Jonathan Luiz by phone-Town Administrator, William Mulcahy-Board of Education Member, Earnest Sharpe-FIPAC Chairman, Carmen Vance-First Selectman

Also Present: Dick Szegda-Columbia Selectman

Staff Present: Karen Johnson-Superintendent's Secretary

I. Call to Order

Mrs. Ciurylo called the September 14, 2011 Fiscal Policy Board meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

II. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2011

E. Sharpe **MOVED** and W. Mulcahy **SECONDED** to approve the June 8, 2011 regular meeting minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

III. Correspondence – None

IV. Old Business

A. State of CT Department of Education Division of Finance and Internal Operations ED001 Report – Mrs.

Ciurylo reported the ED001's September 1st submittal deadline was met and once numbers are audited, end-of-the-year expenditure changes will be made before December 31st.

V. New Business

A. Minimum Budget Requirement (including AHM funding suggestion from Dick Szegda) – Mrs. Ciurylo has consulted Mr. Brian Mahoney from the State Department of Education regarding the non-compliance issue. Mr. Mahoney is encouraging the Town to fix this problem by June 30, 2012. If not, the fine will be twice the deficit amount of \$158,723. Going forward, \$158,723 will need to be added to the 2012/2013 Board of Education budget. First Selectman Vance has contacted the eighteen CT districts that are also not in compliance. One district may be taking court action against the State. Mrs. Coss reported that unconfirmed high school enrollment numbers show an additional \$179,864 in general education funds may be needed to cover 2011/2012 tuition costs. Confirmed October 1 student census data will be available for the November 9th Fiscal Policy meeting. Mr. Sharpe commented on the Chronicle article that stated the State may take court action against Columbia for not being in compliance. He said the law does not give the Commissioner authority to take legal action against the Town of Columbia.

Mr. Szegda suggested another option for approximately \$83,000 of the compliance funds. He asked members to consider becoming full members to the Andover, Hebron, and Marlborough Youth Services Board. This option has the support of 3 of the 5 selectmen. All of the AHM programs provide services to children and between 60%-70% of the programs are school based. The cost for full membership is approximately \$83,000 a year. Columbia currently pays \$17,000 a year for services to AHM. Mr. Szegda suggested the possibility of using AHM for Porter's social worker vacancy at the additional cost of approximately \$15,000 for one day per week (includes benefits). Mrs. Coss explained the school social worker is required to be state certified and voiced concern for duplication of services.

Board members also discussed EdJobs money, allocation of funds, the possible need for additional tuition funding, roofing costs and the district's method used to confirm student residency. Mr. Sharpe would like to continue to wait before forming a position, but if the Town is stuck paying the \$158,723, if we need AHM services and the school agrees, he may back this option. Ms. Vance would like to discuss this matter with the State Department of Education's Commissioner. She is concerned that this is a back door way to get full membership with AHM. If the Columbia community would like this service, it should be voted on at a Town meeting.

Mr. Szegda thanked the Board for their time and offered to present information to the Board of Education.

B. Upcoming Audit

VI. Fiscal Department – Mrs. Ciurylo reported the finance department is busy preparing for three upcoming audits, working on the network server and updating BMSI software. Mr. Mulcahy asked for a date when the BMSI purchase order system will be functional. Mrs. Ciurylo explained that this is not a good time to be setting up the new purchase order application and she will keep Fiscal Policy Board members informed of any progress.

VII. Audience

VIII. Other – Mr. Sharpe asked about:

- possible regional services to be provided by the finance department - Mrs. Ciurylo is exploring this topic with WINCOG;
- the school roof - 7 RFQ's from architectural roof consultants have been accepted. The next step is to schedule architectural vendor presentations;
- end of the year transfers - Mrs. Coss handed out a July correspondence which showed a detailed listing of end-of-the-year spending. Mr. Sharpe requested a 2011/2012 end of the year spending presentation.

IX. Adjournment

B. Ciurylo **MOVED** and E. Sharpe **SECONDED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

Next meeting: October 12, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Johnson, Superintendent's Secretary