

Minutes of the Town of Farmington
Regular Town Council Meeting
March 13, 2019

Present:

Nancy W. Nickerson, Chair
Patricia Boye-Williams
Bruce Charette
Paul Cianci
Edward Giannaros
Beth Kintner
C.J. Thomas

Kathy Eagen, Town Manager
Paula B. Ray, Clerk

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Council and members of the public recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Public Comment

Emily Kaliney of 30 High Street asked the Council to keep the Board of Education budget intact. She told the Council they ran a tight ship. She believed continuous small cuts to their budget over time kicked the can down the road, and it would be better to address the needs when presented.

D. To consider and take action on the proposed FY 2019-2020 Budget

Kathy Greider, Superintendent of Schools; Kim Wynne, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Matt Ross, Director of Technology and Vince LaFontan joined the Council to review the Board of Education's Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Recommended Budget.

Salaries

The following subjects were discussed:

- Overall number of FTE's and Administrators in the budget
- Teacher turn over allowances made in the budget
- How staffing efficiencies were made in the budget
- The reasoning for not reducing the number of Assistant Principals
- If the budget were to be reduced to a 2.5% level what areas would be affected
- Comparisons of FTE levels in September vs. June (see the attached)
- Per pupil expenditure rankings over time
- Student enrollment projections
- Possible future mandates and possible impacts on staffing

- Enrollment increase percentages vs. budget increase percentages over the past 5 years
- The new Board-Certified Behavioral Analyst
- The amount of surplus in the teacher salary account over the past few years.

Benefits

The following subjects were discussed:

- Self-Insurance history and current issues
- General health claims trending higher
- Overall performance of the Self Insurance Fund still better to comparable groups
- Stop loss coverage still a problem, but not as bad as last year
- Number of retirees in the fund increasing.

Services

The following subjects were discussed:

- The increase in the account was driven by a new transportation contract that included enhancements in security – GPS and cameras on the buses.

Supplies

The following subjects were discussed:

- The overall decrease in the account was the result of items being removed to other areas in the budget.

Equipment

The following subjects were discussed:

- The chrome book purchase and chrome book use
- The replacement Program for specialty instruments.

Dues & Fees

The following subjects were discussed:

- The increase in the account was driven by liability insurance.

Capital Improvement Plan

The following subjects were discussed:

- Request for a report on how much of the Friar Report had been accomplished.
- How much of the East Farms School Project was part of the Friar Report
- The Roof Maintenance item in the operating budget.

Grants

The following subjects were discussed:

- The use of Open Choice money and future grant levels
- Decreased funding for CREC Magnet Schools being passed on to the Towns
- The potential for reduced reimbursements from the Excess Cost Sharing Grant for special education because of higher reimbursement levels for school systems using multisystem collaboration. Farmington has been developing an in-house model for special education services over the past few years instead of out placements
- The increase in Federal Grants due the increase of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch.

E. Adjourn to Executive Session

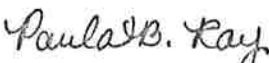
There was no Executive Session held.

F. Adjournment

Motion was made and seconded (Charette/Giannaros) to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Adopted unanimously

Respectfully submitted,


Paula B. Ray, Clerk

	July 1 FTE	June 30 FTE
2014-15	358.45	360.75
2015-16	370.05	372.65
2016-17	373.70	374.10
2017-18	375.4	374.75
2018-19	379.65	376.50
2019-20	381.1	381.10