



TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hicks Municipal Center
Council Chambers
Tolland, CT 06084

REGULAR MEETING

7:30 – 10:00 P.M.

VISION STATEMENT

To represent education at its best, preparing each student for an ever-changing society, and becoming a full community of learning where excellence is achieved through each individual's success.

2018-2019 GOALS

- *Support and encourage specialized programs that can serve as alternatives to outplacement*
- *Support and encourage the development of tuition programs*
- *Support the implementation of Mastery Learning and Responsive Education initiatives*
- *Support and encourage Curriculum Development, and Teaching & Learning best practice*
- *Engage in the Strategic Prevention Framework*
- *Engage the Superintendent to explore and research shared service opportunities*
- *Engage Town, State, and Federal officials to discuss and advocate for education*
- *Foster the continued development of instructional technology*

AGENDA

April 24, 2019

A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 10, 2019

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2 minute limit)

The members of the Tolland Board of Education welcome members of the public to share their thoughts and ideas at this time. When appropriate to do so, members of the Board and the administration may respond to comments during "Points of Information". However, in consideration of those in attendance and in an effort to proceed in a timely manner, follow-up discussion may need to take place outside of the meeting setting.

D. CORRESPONDENCE

E. POINTS OF INFORMATION

F. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT – Fisher Thompson and Summer Zahid

G. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- G.1 Tim Ackert, Dan Champagne and Pat Wilson-Pheanious-Update on State Budget (No enclosure)
- G.2 Possible cancellation of summer meetings
- G.3 Recognitions (No enclosure)
- G.4 ERF Request to Town Council

H. COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

I. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

J. BOARD ACTION

K. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2-minute limit)
Comments must be limited to items on this agenda.

L. POINTS OF INFORMATION

Town Council Meeting Minutes-April 9, 2019

M. FUTURE

N. NEW BUSINESS

O. ADJOURNMENT

TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Hicks Municipal Center
Council Chambers
Tolland, CT 06084

REGULAR MEETING – April 10, 2019

Members Present: Ms. Colleen Yudichak, Chair; Ms. Karen Moran, Vice Chair; Ms. Michelle Harrold, Secretary (arrived at 8:20PM); Ms. Jane Pasini, Mr. Sam Adlerstein, Mr. Jeff Schroeder, Mr. Bob Pagoni, and Ms. Kate Howard-Bender

Members Absent: Ms. Christina Plourd

Administrators Present: Dr. Walter Willett, Superintendent of Schools; Mark McLaughlin, Business Director

A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Yudichak called the meeting to order at 7:33PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A video of Mr. Stoddard Slayton's Grade 4 class, from the Tolland Public Schools television series, was presented.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- March 20, 2019
- March 26, 2019 – Special Meeting

Mr. Schroeder motioned to adopt the minutes of the March 20th and March 26th meetings. Mr. Pagoni seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

D. CORRESPONDENCE

- e-mail regarding the budget and its impact on average students
- multiple e-mails were received in regard to the school calendar
- three e-mails requesting that the April break be moved to the 13th – 17th
- e-mail requesting fewer early release days and a concern about Wednesdays particularly at Birch Grove
- e-mail regarding parent teach conferences and fewer early release days
- e-mail regarding having fewer early release days with a recommendation of moving them to Fridays or combining to create full in-service days and moving the parent teacher conferences scheduled in November

Mr. Pagoni motioned to move item G2 before G1. Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried.

E. POINTS OF INFORMATION - none

F. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT – Fisher Thompson & Summer Zahid

- two music concerts at THS over the past two weeks: one was with the chorus and band while the other was a session of the THS and TMS choruses and bands
- SATs were administered yesterday

- April break is upcoming
- THS band will go for an adjudication in Chicago at the end of April
- RAGE Robotics will attend the national competition at the end of April
- DECA will attend the national competition at the end of April

G. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

G1. Monthly Financial Report

Dr. Willett reviewed attachment G2.

The March 2019 financial report shows an available balance of \$1,035,836 or 2.61% of the BOE's current budget and the BOE anticipates spending the allocated budget by year-end in accordance with CGS 10-222.

G2. True Colors Presentation (no enclosure)

Dr. Willett introduced Ms. Robin McHaelen, Executive Director, True Colors and thanked her for attending the meeting. Ms. McHaelen has presented at all of the Tolland schools for the administration and faculty as well as at the Tolland Public Library.

Ms. McHaelen presented *Sexuality and Gender in K-12 School Settings* and answered questions.

G3. Superintendent Evaluation

Dr. Willett reviewed attachment G3.

G4. Appointment of a BOE member to work on Building Committee

(BOE representative to work with Dave Skoczulek and Beverly Bellody on volunteer selection for the Building Committee interviews – no enclosure)

Dr. Willett reviewed attachment G4.

Ms. Yudichak appointed Ms. Harrold to two positions: the BOE representative to the volunteer selection committee that will create the Birch Grove Building Committee and the BOE representative to the Birch Grove Building Committee.

Ms. Yudichak appointed Ms. Moran to serve as an alternate for both Committees.

A brief discussion took place regarding what would occur if at some point the BOE member of the Birch Grove Building Committee is no longer a Board member. Mr. Schroeder noted that a Board member should always be on the Committee.

G5. TMS Partial Roof Replacement Project

Dr. Willett reviewed item G5 and explained that it was a modification of the original specifications.

Ms. Howard-Bender motioned to move item G5 to item J2 for action. Ms. Harrold seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

G6. FY20 Budget Adjustments

Dr. Willett reviewed attachment G6.

Presented are the modifications to the BOE adopted budget of \$40,824,106 (2/2019) to decrease it by 2.08% (\$848,501) based on the Town Council's adopted budget (3/2019).

Dr. Willett highlighted the adjustments and noted that professional development was

impacted in as much as it could be without "eviscerating" the program and two 1.0 FTE positions (7th grade ELA) will be reduced.

Dr. Willett explained that the two staff positions represented the SRBI/RTI resources he was attempting to build. THS will not have an SRBI/RTI position and TMS will not have the Reading Academy piece extended. Originally, he was going to create an SRBI/RTI reading position at THS for general education students by transferring one of the positions from TMS. He noted that TMS will have one teacher who will do Reading support work. Dr. Willett explained that the State requirement for SRBI/RTI will not be adequately covered. He added that class sizes were impacted in order to provide SRBI/RTI and while the two positions were seen by some as superfluous, their loss will have an impact. Additionally, seventh grade ELA curriculum will need to be restructured.

Ms. Howard-Bender commented that the district will have to restructure the curriculum for the seventh grade because the two positions are being lost but the district does not have a curriculum director to assist with the restructuring. Further the SRBI/RTI positions are not occurring; thus, there are multiple losses when one considers that they will not be able to close the achievement gap. Ms. Moran added that this also impacts cost avoidance.

Mr. Adlerstein commented that regardless of the budget that is passed, Dr. Willett will open the school doors next term and run the district. He explained that the Board has the duty to describe what is happening and the damage being done. The Superintendent cannot describe it. Ms. Howard-Bender commented that, "this is detrimental" and to tell the Superintendent "to figure it out" is "irresponsible". Mr. Adlerstein explained that if Tolland decides to do this then it is not fair for parents to go to teachers and say their children are not getting the "education they signed up for". The blame should not fall on the staff and teachers. They will be working harder than ever to try to work without the resources needed to do the job. Ms. Moran added that it should not be taken out on the students either. It was noted that people also should not then wonder when families make the decision to send their students out of district which will in turn cause the Town to have to spend more money.

Dr. Willett commented that they received some e-mails from parents lamenting the absence of support for the general education population. He explained that prior to the budget situation he could say they were making progress district wide but now he cannot and will need to figure out how to address this. The positions were not superfluous and to suggest otherwise is "disingenuous".

Mr. Thompson commented that he has kept the Student Council and others informed and explained that the Board and Superintendent always have the best in mind for the students. Things like what the Board is being forced to do, in the end, affects every student and every student needs a good education.

Mr. Adlerstein commented that when the Town Council goes into public hearing it needs to be straight with residents. No one on the Council should tell residents that this is not damaging to the district. He would hate for residents to go to the public hearing and leave it thinking that this is a normal year and business as usual. This started in 2017/18 when

Dr. Willett was told to reduce the budget by \$2.5M. Regardless of what came to fruition, the wheels were set in motion and the district has not yet recovered. The district is still "in the hole from that never mind these reductions". For example, Mr. Adlerstein noted that the district still does not have a curriculum director. The job description for the director of curriculum position, dated 2017, was presented. Ms. Howard-Bender presented a list of districts in CT indicating the student populations and whether there was an assistant superintendent, director of student learning, or curriculum director on staff. (Attached)

Mr. Adlerstein inquired if over time there will be a lack of consistency without there being a director of curriculum. A school system is built on curriculum. Dr. Willett responded that Tolland has an excellent school system and people are working very hard but there will be impacts. Mr. Adlerstein respects Dr. Willett's response but commented that the challenge is that people will see that the doors are open in September and things are fine. They will not understand the magnitude. He wants the Town Council to tell people what is happening to the school district. The Board is not being "dramatic or overreacting". One cannot cut \$2.5M from the district one year and \$800K+ in another year and expect the district to perform the way it has historically. Students of the future are not going to get the education received by students in the past.

Mr. Adlerstein inquired about the mailer regarding the referendum questions and noted that the format is consistent with that of other years. He explained that he did not recognize the numbers presented for the fund balance and presented a graph of the Unassigned Fund Balance from FY2009-2020 (June 30). The mailer referred to the numbers as the savings account when it is actually the unassigned fund balance. The unassigned fund balance is at a record high of \$8.3M and it has gone up an average of \$275K per year over the past 10 years. When looking at last year, the mailer would have shown an estimated unassigned fund balance of \$7.4M dropping to \$6.7M. Mr. Adlerstein explained that the vote took place in May and on June 30th the number was \$8.3M so they were off by almost \$1M yet it is not discussed. While he noted that he does not know what is driving this, most places have a point of reference which is traditionally the published number. Estimates should be based on this and assumptions presented. He explained that when the Town learned it was going to lose a lot of State revenue, the Town Council established an ordinance to protect the fund balance while other communities did not do self-inflicted harm and used their funds since they did not know what would come to fruition. Mr. Adlerstein commented that it does not make sense to him why, when they are doing "devastating" things to the education system, at the same time there are record increases to the fund balance.

Ms. Falusi commented that the "Town Council passed a policy to try to reach financial goals without, I believe, looking at the bigger picture of where Tolland was. They took a snapshot of what they wanted their fund balance to be" and passed an ordinance to say the fund balance had to be a certain percentage. She added that they passed an item this year as well to try to ensure the financial picture looks good by having a certain percent in the fund balance. Ms. Falusi said she did not agree or vote for it. It is something the current Town Council values.

Mr. Adlerstein commented that the priority became being fiscally responsible but the fund balance was built at the detriment of the schools. Ms. Howard-Bender reiterated this.

Mr. Adlerstein added that the Town Council made a decision to return \$450K to the taxpayers rather than using it for items like those being discussed today. Ms. Howard-Bender clarified that these funds were an ECS reimbursement. Ms. Falusi agreed but noted that the money was never received so they lowered the mill rate. A brief discussion took place.

Mr. Adlerstein explained that Dr. Willett is asking the Board to support the referendum – he cannot afford for it to be worse. While the Board believes it is damaging to the district, the Board cannot tell residents not to support the referendum. Ms. Moran commented that she supports it but her hands are tied. Ms. Harrold agreed and noted that once again they are laying people off based on assumptions that historically have not come to fruition. Mr. Adlerstein commented that they did not come to fruition because of the efforts of the Board including lobbying, working with CABA and other districts, and repeatedly going to Hartford to talk with legislators. Ms. Howard-Bender commented that this is a bad case without there being a reason for there to be a bad case.

Ms. Yudichak noted she e-mailed the letter sent by the Board to the legislators to the CABA list and they will present it to their boards of education.

Ms. Pasini motioned to extend the meeting past 10 p.m. Ms. Moran seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Adlerstein inquired what could happen if the referendum fails. Dr. Willett explained that he hopes they will not have to go there but if so, it would be items discussed back on March 26th. A brief discussion took place regarding if there are other items that could be reduced and that those items such as "pay to play" would not be enough to "save the day". Ms. Pasini commented that if the May 7th referendum does not pass then parents of athletes are looking at potentially paying \$800/\$1000 per sport per student. She added that as sad as reductions make her, she would support Dr. Willett's plan.

Dr. Willett commented that unless he is given another directive by the Board, he will move forward with the plan outlined in attachment G6. The Board did not provide a directive to do otherwise. Dr. Willett will execute the plan starting tomorrow.

H. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS – tabled to the next meeting

I. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - none

J. BOARD ACTION

J1. 2019-2020 School Calendar

Dr. Willett reviewed attachment J1 and changes that were made based on the feedback of the Board, staff, and community.

Ms. Harrold motioned to accept the Tolland Public School 2019-2020 Calendar. Ms. Moran seconded the motion. A brief discussion took place. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- J2. TMS Partial Roof Replacement Project
Mr. Schroeder motioned to approve the Educational Specifications for the TMS Partial Roof Replacement project and to accept and authorize this project to be executed with the revised education specifications. Ms. Howard-Bender seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

K. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Brenda Falusi, 4 Laurel Ridge Road, commented that she used to be a substitute teacher in Tolland and explained that she had the opportunity to sit on a class with the curriculum director and in turn was prepared to teach the class and the students did not lose anything by having a substitute teacher. The position benefits not only the teachers but also the substitutes.

Liz Costa, 54 Josiah Lane, thanked the Board for holding the presentation on True Colors and noted that Mr. Adlerstein's presentation was outstanding as well. It provided perspective. She encouraged the Board to determine a date where someone could organize residents to call Hartford and "dial for dollars". People should continue to write letters, send e-mails, and leave voicemails – they need to be "loud and create an uproar" to make sure they do not lose as many dollars. She thanked the Board for all it does.

L. POINTS OF INFORMATION

- Town Council Special Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2019
- Town Council Special Meeting Minutes – March 14, 2019
- Town Council Special Meeting Minutes – March 21, 2019
- Town Council Special Meeting Minutes - March 26, 2019
- Town Council Meeting Minutes – March 26, 2019

Mr. Adlerstein inquired if it would be possible to have the legislators attend a Board meeting. They will be invited.

Ms. Howard-Bender encouraged people to vote for Mr. Keithan to win a Norwegian Cruise in an online poll.

M. FUTURE

- Dr. Willett will create programs for the Board members annually (this includes school tours)
- Pathways
- 21st Century Learning
- Strategic Prevention Framework
- Mental Health Services
- Budget
- Regionalization

N. NEW BUSINESS – none

O. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pagoni motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 p.m. Ms. Harrold seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

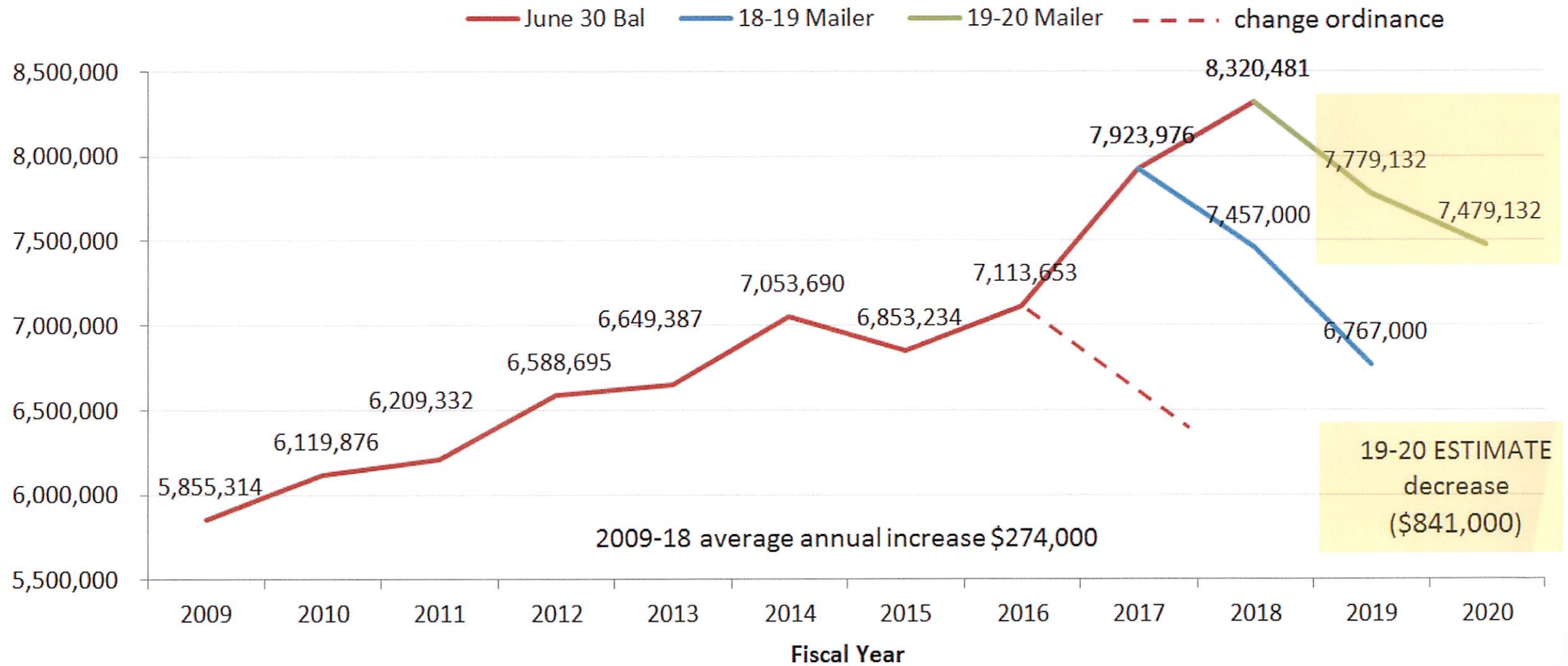
Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pascuzzi
Clerk

DISTRICT NAME	# students 2019	Tolland has fewer (neg) students more (pos)	Tolland has fewer (pos) students % more (neg)	assistant superintendent? (yes/no) or DIRECTOR of T & L or similar position
Orange	1181	1211	50.63%	Director of Curric & Instruction & Personnel
Putnam	1215	1177	49.21%	half time director of curriculum
Old Saybrook	1219	1173	49.04%	Director of Curric Coordination
Reg #18 (Lyme / Old Lyme)	1263	1129	47.20%	director of Curriculum & PD
Derby	1308	1084	45.32%	director of curriculum, instruction, assessment
Portland	1323	1069	44.69%	director of curriculum, instruction & tech
Somers	1379	1013	42.35%	director of curriculum & instruction
Plymouth	1429	963	40.26%	dir of curriculum & instruction
Reg #8 (Andover, Hebron, Marlboro)	1456	936	39.13%	no evidence of either
Stafford	1511	881	36.83%	director of curriculum
Canton	1560	832	34.78%	ass'st superintendent
Windsor Locks	1570	822	34.36%	no evidence of either
Reg #13 (Durham / Middlefield)	1617	775	32.40%	dir of curric, instruction, ass't; dir of org dev't
Coventry	1649	743	31.06%	dir of teaching & learning
Reg #14 (Woodbury/Bethlehem)	1656	736	30.77%	dir of teaching & learning
North Branford	1741	651	27.22%	Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Clinton	1744	648	27.09%	ass'st superintendent
Griswold	1776	616	25.75%	Director of Curriculum Instruction & Assessment
Oxford	1799	593	24.79%	dir of curric, instruction, ass't; & dir of org dev't
East Hampton	1869	523	21.86%	Director of Curriculum and Instruction
ACES	1874	518	21.66%	n/a (RESC)
Granby	1877	515	21.53%	ass'st superintendent
Cromwell	1946	446	18.65%	ass'st superintendent
Reg #17 (Haddam-Killingworth)	2026	366	15.30%	ass'st superintendent
Stonington	2050	342	14.30%	ass'st superintendent
Montville	2077	315	13.17%	ass'st superintendent
Reg #16 (Prospect)	2134	258	10.79%	Director of Curriculum
Suffield	2148	244	10.20%	ass'st superintendent
Seymour	2178	214	8.95%	ass'st superintendent
Bloomfield	2184	208	8.70%	ass'st superintendent
Reg #5	2186	206	8.61%	ass'st superintendent
Plainfield	2205	187	7.82%	ass'st superintendent
Wolcott	2244	148	6.19%	ass'st superintendent
New Fairfield	2246	146	6.10%	ass'st superintendent
NFA	2256	136	5.69%	n/a (regional HS)
Reg #10 (Burlington)	2273	119	4.97%	Dir of Student Learning
Colchester	2321	71	2.97%	Director of Teaching & Learning
Weston	2322	70	2.93%	ass'st superintendent
Ansonia	2324	68	2.84%	ass'st superintendent
Plainville	2353	39	1.63%	ass'st superintendent

DISTRICT NAME	# students 2019	Tolland has <u> </u> more (pos) /fewer (neg) students	Tolland has <u> </u> % more (neg) /fewer (pos) students	assistant superintendent? (yes/no) or DIRECTOR of T & L or similar position
<u>Tolland</u>	<u>2392</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00%</u>	<u>no</u>
Ledyard	2431	-39	-1.63%	ass'st superintendent
Killingly	2501	-109	-4.56%	ass'st superintendent
LEARN	2509	-117	-4.89%	RESC
Waterford	2519	-127	-5.31%	ass'st superintendent
Brookfield	2630	-238	-9.95%	ass'st superintendent
East Lyme	2699	-307	-12.83%	ass'st superintendent
Ellington	2735	-343	-14.34%	ass'st superintendent
Madison	2737	-345	-14.42%	ass'st superintendent
Rocky Hill	2748	-356	-14.88%	ass'st superintendent
Watertown	2754	-362	-15.13%	ass'st superintendent
Berlin	2803	-411	-17.18%	ass'st superintendent
Branford	2860	-468	-19.57%	ass'st superintendent

June 30 Unassigned Fund Balance



SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND

ITEM: Summer Meeting Review

ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Walter Willett, Ph.D., Superintendent

FOR BOE MEETING: April 24, 2019

ITEM SUMMARY:

Annually the Board of Education considers the cancellation of some of the summer meetings. The topic of cancellation of the board meetings for July 10, July 24 and August 14 is therefore presented for discussion.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

N/A

BOARD ATTORNEY REVIEW:

N/A

BOE ACTION DESIRED:

Review dates – first reading.

Consideration of BOE meetings and dates. If cancellation is desired:

Potential Move to Action.

Potential Motion: Motion to cancel the Board of Education meetings for July 10, July 24, and August 14.

First, Second, Discussion, and Vote.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS ATTACHED:

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND

ITEM: ERF Request to Town Council

ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Walter Willett, Ph.D., Superintendent

FOR BOE MEETING: April 24, 2019

ITEM SUMMARY:

In accordance with Chapter 8: of Ordinance 86:

Subject to audit confirmation of the Board of Education's available year end balance and the status of the unassigned General Fund - fund balance, the Town Council shall except as provided below, deposit into a non-lapsing account any unexpended funds of the prior fiscal year from the budgeted appropriation for education. This amount may not exceed one percent of the total budgeted appropriation for education for such fiscal year. The Board of Education shall provide a written request for such funds to the Town Council after they have approved the funding request at their Board meeting. The appropriation shall not be considered until the end of the third quarter of the fiscal year. If prior to the appropriation being made, the State of Connecticut reduces and/or withholds ECS revenue in an amount greater than provided for in the Town budget, the appropriation request of the BOE may be denied in part or in whole.

In the June 20, 2018 meeting the Board of Education made and carried the following motion:

Motion to follow the process outlined in ordinance 86 to transfer 393,339k into the Education Reserve Fund for the end of year 2017-2018

As this meeting is on or near the end of the third quarter of the fiscal year the Board of Education is thereby making this written request to deposit into the non-lapsing account referred to as the Educational Reserve Fund \$393,339 of unexpended funds from the budgeted appropriation for education in 2017-2018 fiscal year.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

\$393,339 to be transferred into the Educational Reserve Fund as per Ordinance 86.

BOARD ATTORNEY REVIEW:

N/A

BOE ACTION DESIRED:

Motion in accordance with Ordinance 86 to officially, and in writing, make this written request of the Town Council to transfer \$393,339 from the 2017-2018 fiscal year into the Education Reserve Fund.

Motion: In accordance with Ordinance 86 execute this written request of the Town Council to deposit into the non-lapsing account referred to as the Educational Reserve Fund \$393,339 of unexpended funds from the budgeted appropriation for education in 2017-2018 fiscal year.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS ATTACHED: None

MEETING MINUTES

**TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL
HICKS MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
6th FLOOR COUNCIL ROOM
APRIL 9, 2019 - 7:00 PM**

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
TOLLAND, CT

2019 APR 11 AM 8:30

Shirley M Bailey

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Skoczulek, Vice-Chair; Brenda Falusi; Tammy Nuccio; John Reagan; Paul Reynolds and Christine Vincent

MEMBERS ABSENT: William Eccles, Chair

OTHERS PRESENT: Steven Werbner, Town Manager; Michael Wilkinson, Director of Administrative Services; Beverly Bellody, Human Services; Scott Lappen, Public Works; Lisa Hancock, Director of Finance and Records; Walter Willett, Superintendent

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** David Skoczulek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited.
3. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Observed.
4. **PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:** None.

Mr. Skoczulek recognized that it is National Public Library week.

5. **PUBLIC PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** (*on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council*) (2 minute limit): None.
6. **PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

- 6.1 Consideration of a resolution to adopt a Staggered Terms Ordinance.

Mr. Werbner read his item summary: At the November 6, 2018 referendum, voters approved the following change(s) to §C3-2 of the Charter for the Town of Tolland establishing staggered terms for the Board of Education:

“There shall be a Board of Education consisting of nine (9) members who shall be elected, six (6) members to four-year terms and three (3) members to two-year terms; all of whom shall serve without compensation. At each biennial municipal election there shall be elected three (3) members to four-year terms and three (3) members to two-year terms...”

In order to establish staggered terms in accordance with changes made to §C3-2 of the Tolland Town Charter, at the November 5, 2019 municipal election: six (6) Board of Education members shall be elected to two-year terms and three (3) Board of Education members shall be elected to four-year terms. Each political party may nominate and each registered voter shall vote for no more than four (4) two-year terms and two (2) four-year terms. At each biennial municipal election thereafter, there shall be elected three (3) members to four-year terms and three (3) members to two-year terms. Each political party may nominate and each registered voter shall vote for no more than two (2) two year terms and two (2) four-year terms. CGS 9-167a – Minority Representation – dictates that no more than six (6) members of a nine (9) member board be members of the same political party. For the purposes of applying minority representation laws, candidates with the highest number of votes up until the maximum allowed

from the same political party shall be deemed elected. Any unexpired (vacancy) terms shall be seated first, four-year terms shall be seated second, and the remaining two-year terms shall be seated last.

Tammy Nuccio moved to open the public hearing; Seconded by Brenda Falusi. All in favor. None opposed.

Tammy Nuccio moved to close the public hearing; Seconded by Brenda Falusi. All in favor. None opposed.

Tammy Nuccio motioned to accept the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council adopts a Staggered Terms Ordinance.

Seconded by Brenda Falusi. All in favor. None opposed.

- 6.2 Consideration of a resolution authorizing an appropriation of \$46,000,000 for the Birch Grove Primary School Project and the financing of said appropriation by the issuance of General Obligation Bonds of the Town and notes in anticipation of such bonds in an amount not to exceed \$46,000,000, or so much as may be necessary after deducting grants therefor, as well as establishing a date for a referendum.

Mr. Werbner said the foundation at Birch Grove School is impacted by pyrrhotite to the extent that the structural engineer hired by the school system has indicated that in the near term the integrity of the steel support columns could be impacted under certain weather and wind conditions. The recommendation of the structural engineer, along with the school facilities unit of the State of Connecticut, is that the building should not be occupied in the next school session and that planning for the replacement of the school should start immediately. The State of Connecticut has granted this project emergency status which is somewhat unprecedented in Connecticut. This designation means that we are eligible for 52% funding by the State for all costs associated with the project. Also we are allowed to assemble an architectural and construction team using prequalified vendors of the State without the time required for formal bids. The State has assigned an architect within the school facilities unit to work with the Town's selected architect, JCJ, in the design process and together along with the contractor to ensure that cost estimates developed are within the State's guidelines. The Governor's School Building Advisory Group along with an outside consultant and the staff of the school facilities unit have established maximums for hard construction costs as well as percentages for soft costs in State building projects. The emergency designation has also put us in a priority position for funding without having to receive State legislative approval. All these steps are saving time and money since this project is anticipated to take two years from design through construction with a normal school construction process of this size taking three to four years. With construction inflation being 3-5% per year, the sooner this project can be completed the better. In addition without the emergency status the 2002 section of the building would not be eligible for State financial assistance until 2033 and the reimbursement rate for the older section would be 37%.

The architect is working with school staff on the layout of portable classrooms, separate from the construction zone. In addition, the architect is verifying with school staff the space needs for the new school, which at this time are projected to be the same size as the existing building.

We, like residential homeowners involved with this problem, are victims to a situation not of our creation. All steps will be taken to see if there is any insurance coverage to assist with our share of the cost. We are also working with Congressman Courtney's Office on possible federal assistance to address the share of the cost not absorbed by the State.

We have to act now and act quickly. Much time is being taken by me and the Superintendent to ensure that this project moves forward as quickly as possible but in accordance with sound building principles, financial controls

and in the best interest of the education system in Tolland. A bonding referendum is recommended on May 7th to authorize funds for this project at a maximum of 46 million dollars with the Town's share being 48%.

Tammy Nuccio moved to open the public hearing; Seconded by Brenda Falusi. All in favor. None opposed.

George Eldridge of 36 Fish & Game Road: He commented that he has done some research. He spoke about the capacity at each school, and claims that the student population is declining. He wants to know why we can't make do with the schools we already have. Another school is not necessarily needed. He wishes people would question the BOE regarding the real numbers. He would like to do something more conservative, and save ourselves \$40m+.

David Skoczulek wanted Mr. Eldridge to know that their silence is not a confirmation or rebuttal for what he is saying.

Donald Peck of Buff Cap Road: He is a data driven decision maker. He believes more information is needed in order for the residents to make an informed decision. He thinks a better look at the numbers might be a good start. Hard facts for the residents might prove more effective.

Tammy Nuccio moved to close the public hearing; Seconded by Brenda Falusi. All in favor. None opposed.

Tammy Nuccio motioned to accept the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Tolland Town Council that it hereby approves as follows:

Consideration of a resolution authorizing an appropriation of \$46,000,000 for the Birch Grove Primary School Project and the financing of said appropriation by the issuance of General Obligation Bonds of the Town and notes in anticipation of such bonds in an amount not to exceed \$46,000,000, or so much as may be necessary after deducting grants therefor, as well as establishing a date for a referendum.

A copy of the full text of the resolution is recorded following these minutes.

Seconded by Brenda Falusi.

Paul Reynolds asked if the Superintendent had any information to offer regarding the comments made during the public hearing.

Dr. Willett said the enrollment is declining, but it will even off. He advised that he is doing presentations on the Birch Grove subject weekly, and offered to speak with both Mr. Peck and Mr. Eldridge individually. He said with the way Birch Grove is set-up, it is the town's only early childhood education school. He reviewed recommendations of a DRA study that was done a few years ago. At the time of the study, it said they could build out onto another school. The wording used though was a 'school size' addition. So, when all the numbers fall out in this particular situation, this will be a great value for the town. The new building will be one of the flagship buildings, it will be used for decades and decades to come, and will be able to accommodate the future. No one who has looked at this situation has said it could be done with anything less than a school size addition. The opportunities offered by the state can be lost if not acted upon.

Mr. Werbner said as time passes on, the building will become unsafe to occupy. They will be in a position where the building will be unsafe in two years for our children and staff. He mentioned that if they were able to locate areas within the existing schools, the costs to upgrade with the items needed would be approximately \$20m, which is near the amount that the town will be responsible for if a the new building is built. Also, the State will not get involved with any other scenario, except for the building of a new school.

Tammy Nuccio commented that Mr. Eldridge is not the only person who has raised the capacity issues. She has asked a lot of questions of both Mr. Werbner and Dr. Willett. She wants people to understand that based on state regulations, they have a lot of rooms and a lot of space, but the space is not straight teaching rooms. While there may be capacity for 1,300; the actual capacity that they have for teaching and classrooms is less than 1,300. She also asked about different ways to deal with Birch Grove, such as the price tag to demolish Birch Grove, and do all the work on the another school. If it is going to cost almost \$20m to do all the work, and it'll cost \$23m for our portion of a new school, we should do the new building in that case. It is not as easy or cost effective as one might think to add onto an existing school. That has been researched.

David Skoczulek said investing in Birch Grove shows people, both in town and out of town, what our values are and where we are headed in terms of the crumbling foundation crisis. Hopefully, we will have this new school, and Captive Insurance will be raising houses and putting in new foundations. We will be heading the right direction as a town, which he believes is valuable right now. Ms. Nuccio agreed. We need to show that the crumbling foundations are not going to sink us.

Ms. Falusi referred the public to the town's website where information regarding Birch Grove can be viewed. This information is updated regularly. Residents are also encouraged to send e-mails to Mr. Werbner and Dr. Willett if they have more questions.

Mr. Reagan asked Mr. Werbner to summarize what the consequences will be if the residents vote 'no' on the Birch Grove referendum.

Mr. Werbner said the children will be in portable classrooms for a much longer period of time. At this point in time, the State is allowing those classrooms to be rented at the 52% reimbursement rate. If there is a 'no' referendum, and there is no indication that the town is willing to provide it's share, then the town would be responsible for purchasing portable classrooms until it can decide what it wants to do at its own expense, and then figure out what it wants to do at its own expense without any state involvement. If the State reaches a point where they feel that the town is not able to garner the support to provide its 48% of a project, then they will ultimately back out in terms of their partnership in this endeavor.

David Skoczulek; Brenda Falusi; Tammy Nuccio; John Reagan; Paul Reynolds and Christine Vincent were in favor. None opposed.

7a. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE TO THE COUNCIL

7b. REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL LIAISONS: Tammy Nuccio, Rec: The Spring programs are open; they will be repairing the bridge from Crandall's to the Lodge; the Eagle Freeze was a success. Discussion occurred about the legislation pending regarding the increase of the minimum wage to \$11.25. If that occurs, the program fees may have to rise. On September 15th, there will be a dog walk for *Paws for Wellness*, which will occur at Crandall's Park. *Celebrate Tolland* will occur on September 14th; and the cycle cross tournament is still being discussed. The UConn men's soccer team will be renting Cross Farms in the fall, which will bring in some revenue. **Brenda Falusi, PZC:** A new playground was approved at the Rec Department; they approved the reconstruction of Birch Grove; they approved the Genovesi buildings; they approved a re-subdivision on Florence Drive. The next meeting will discuss the POCD. **Jane Pasini, BOE:** There will be a BOE meeting tomorrow night, where they will be discussing some difficult cuts.

8. NEW BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):

- 8.1 Consideration of a resolution to appoint a Town Council member to serve as a member of the Board of Education Negotiation Team.

Mr. Werbner commented that the Teacher and Administrator negotiations will start this July or August. A

Council member will need to be appointed to sit in on the negotiations.

Brenda Falusi motioned to accept the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council shall appoint the following Town Council member to serve as a member of the Board of Education Negotiation Team.

- Tammy Nuccio

Seconded by John Reagan. All in favor. None opposed.

8.2 Appointments to vacancies on various municipal boards/commissions.

8.2.a Appointment to Republican Deputy Registrar

Paul Reynolds motioned to appoint **William R. Wilson** of **7 Clifford Way** as Republican Deputy Registrar for the term of 01/04/17 – 01/06/21. Seconded by Brenda Falusi. All in favor. None opposed.

9. **OLD BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):** None.

10. **REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER (A WRITTEN REPORT SHALL BE PROVIDED THE 1ST MEETING OF THE MONTH ONLY):** Mr. Werbner reminded that the May 7th Referendum will be held at the library program room only. Question #1 is regarding the budget, and question #2 will be regarding Birch Grove.

Michael Wilkinson added that the Meet and Greet for the Town Manager position is next Monday, 5:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. in the library program room.

Mr. Werbner said the first home was raised with Captive funds this past week. There will be several other homes following over the next month or so. We have 93 people in Tolland who are on the waiting list, and approved for funding. There looks to be some light at the end of the tunnel. The process is moving forward.

11. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- 11.1 March 19, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes: Tammy Nuccio moved to adopt the minutes; Seconded by Brenda Falusi. All in favor. None opposed.
- 11.2 March 21, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes: Tammy Nuccio moved to adopt the minutes; Seconded by Brenda Falusi. All in favor. None opposed. Paul Reynolds and Christine Vincent abstained.
- 11.3 March 26, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes: Tammy Nuccio moved to adopt the minutes; Seconded by Brenda Falusi. All in favor. None opposed.
- 11.4 March 26, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes: Tammy Nuccio moved to adopt the minutes; Seconded by Brenda Falusi. All in favor. None opposed.

12. **CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNCIL:**

- 12.1 Letter from Aquarion re: the Aquarion Environmental Champion Award
- 12.2 E-mails concerning the budget
- 12.3 E-mails concerning the town manager position

13. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** None.

14. **COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILPERSONS:** Ms. Nuccio said some towns have made resolutions saying they are not in favor of tolls. She realizes it is purely symbolic, but she doesn't know if they should think about it at some point. Mr. Reynolds said he would be interested. Ms. Falusi is not interested, because the Town Manager and staff are in the middle of the emergency with at Birch Grove. She doesn't think they need to take their time away from that to come up with a resolution that they know will not have any benefit. Ms. Vincent agreed that there is no real benefit to doing it.

Brenda Falusi said there has been concern about the public use of the parks.

Mr. Werbner said the concern is that before the fields can be properly prepared, they cannot have unauthorized people on them. It can cause damage, and it would require funds to repair the fields. Until the fields can be properly prepared, they are asking the resident to stay off of them. After that, he does encourage the residents to enjoy the fields. There was no intent to keep people off of our beautiful resources.

Ms. Falusi said today in Public Library week is for the workers in the Library. She thanked all the librarians and the volunteers.

She also asked if the Human Services programs could be highlighted once a week in a separate e-blast, some residents would appreciate it.

Mr. Werbner said he will work on getting something out on a regular basis.

15. **PUBLIC LISTED PARTICIPATION** (on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council)
(3 minute limit):

George Eldridge: \$46m v. \$20m – remember he is the town, the state and federal government. He spoke about running the schools at 50% capacity. He wants to know what school will be next in line to be closed.

16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- 16.1 Town Manager Search
- 16.2 Personnel Matter
- 16.3 Pending Litigation

Tammy Nuccio motioned to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the above items at 8:00 p.m., ending the Regular Meeting of the Town Council. Michael Wilkinson was invited to attend. Seconded by Brenda Falusi. All in favor. None opposed. The Executive Session ended at 8:40 p.m.

17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Paul Reynolds moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by John Reagan at 8:40 p.m. All were in favor.

David Skoczulek, Vice Chairman

Michelle A. Finnegan
Town Council Clerk

TOWN OF TOLLAND

TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$46,000,000 FOR THE BIRCH GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL PROJECT AND THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE TOWN AND NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$46,000,000, OR SO MUCH AS MAY BE NECESSARY AFTER DEDUCTING GRANTS THEREFOR, AS WELL AS ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR A REFERENDUM.

RESOLVED, (1) That the Town of Tolland (the "Town") appropriate the sum of \$46,000,000 for costs related to certain building and infrastructure repairs, demolition, remediation work, renovations, construction and/or improvements associated with the replacement and/or reconstruction of the Birch Grove Primary School located at 247 Rhodes Road in Tolland, including, without limitation, the costs of (i) the acquisition and installation of portable classrooms and the temporary relocation of teachers, students and existing school operations, (ii) the remediation, repair and replacement of crumbling foundations, (iii) the preparation and printing of bid documents, grant applications, cost estimate reports and studies, informational materials, schematic drawings, outline specifications, architect, engineering, construction and other consulting studies and reports, and other preliminary materials, studies and reports, and (iv) design, demolition, remediation, construction, materials, site work, land and easement acquisition, engineering, architectural, construction administration, commissioning agent, legal, administration, testing, monitoring, moving, temporary and permanent financing and any other costs and expenses related thereto, all of the above with such changes as the Town Council may approve (the "Project"). The Town Council is authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the Project. The Town Council may reduce or modify the scope of the Project, and the entire appropriation authorized hereby may be spent on the Project as so reduced or modified.

(2) That to finance said appropriation for the Project, the Town issue bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed \$46,000,000 (or so much thereof as may be necessary after deducting grants received by the Town for said project). The bonds or notes shall be issued pursuant to Chapter 109 of the Connecticut General Statutes, Revision of 1958, as amended (the "Connecticut General Statutes"), including, without limitation, Section 7-369 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and any other enabling acts.

(3) That the Town issue and renew temporary notes from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes for the Project or the receipt of grants for the Project. The amount of the notes outstanding at any time shall not exceed \$46,000,000. The notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-378 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Town shall comply with the provisions of Section 7-378a of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to any notes that do not mature within the time permitted by said Section 7-378.

(4) That the Town Manager and the Treasurer of the Town (the "Officials") be authorized to sign said bonds or notes by their manual or facsimile signatures and

to determine the amounts, rates of interest, dates, maturities, dates of principal and interest payments on such bonds or notes, the form of such bonds or notes; the provisions for protecting and enforcing the rights and remedies of the holders of such bonds or notes and all other terms, conditions and particular matters regarding the issuance and securing of such bonds or notes and to execute, sell and deliver the same, and provide all supporting documentation as may be necessary or desirable to accomplish such purposes and to comply with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12, and in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes and any other applicable provision of law thereto enabling. The bonds and notes authorized hereby shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the full faith and credit of the Town.

(5) That the Officials are hereby authorized to designate a bank or trust company to be the certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for such bonds and notes; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes; that the law firm of Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C., Hartford, Connecticut, is designated as the attorneys at law to render an opinion approving the legality of such issue or issues.

(6) That the Officials are authorized to sell the bonds and notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes, including, but not limited to, entering into a continuing disclosure agreement pursuant to Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12. If the bonds or notes authorized by this resolution are issued on a tax-exempt basis, the Officials are authorized to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

(7) That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the Project. The Officials are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

(8) That the Town Manager is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Town, to execute any contracts with engineers, contractors, architects and other persons for the Project, and to apply for and accept state or other grants to finance the appropriation for the Project, excluding grants to be applied for by the Tolland Board of Education as authorized by the Town Council under separate resolution.

(9) That the Officials and other proper officers of the Town are authorized to take all other actions which are necessary or desirable to complete the Project consistent with the foregoing and to issue bonds or notes to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

(10) That this resolution shall become effective after approval at referendum vote.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

- (1) That should the Town Council adopt the foregoing resolution, pursuant to Section C9-16 of the Town Charter, said resolution shall be submitted to the voters at referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., for yes or no vote, in the designated voting locations in the manner provided by said Charter and the Connecticut General Statutes, Revision of 1958, as amended, and that the Town Clerk is directed to post and publish notice of such referendum in accordance with the provisions of said Charter and the Connecticut General Statutes, which notice shall state the question to be voted on as follows:

“Shall the resolution entitled, ‘RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$46,000,000 FOR THE BIRCH GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL PROJECT AND THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE TOWN AND NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$46,000,000, OR SO MUCH AS MAY BE NECESSARY AFTER DEDUCTING GRANTS THEREFOR’, be approved?

Yes _____ No _____”

The ballot label for said question shall read as follows:

“Shall the Town of Tolland appropriate \$46,000,000 for the Birch Grove Primary School project and authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and notes in the same amount to finance said appropriation? Yes _____ No _____”

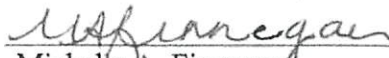
- (2) That the Town Council hereby authorizes the preparation and printing of explanatory text by the Town Clerk in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes for the question to be voted upon on May 7, 2019 approved above. Subject to the approval of the Town Attorney, the Town Council further authorizes the preparation and printing of materials concerning the question to be voted upon on May 7, 2019 approved above in addition to the explanatory text in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Upon Motion duly made and seconded, the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote:

In Favor: David Skolzubski, Brenda Falusi, Tammy Nuccio,
John Reagan, Paul Reynolds + Christine Vincent
Opposed: 0

I, Michelle A. Finnegan, duly elected and qualified Clerk of the Town Council of the Town of Tolland, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Resolution adopted at the meeting of the Town Council held on April 9, 2019 authorizing an appropriation of \$46,000,000 for the Birch Grove Primary School project and to finance such appropriation authorizing the issuance of bonds or notes in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$46,000,000; that said Council consists of seven members; a quorum consists of four members and the minimum number of affirmative votes required to adopt said Resolution was four; Six members were present at said meeting; a roll call vote was taken and Six members voted in favor of said Resolution and 0 members voted against the adoption of said Resolution; the entire meeting exclusive of executive sessions was open to the public and no one was excluded from the portion of the meeting pertaining to the consideration and adoption of said Resolution.

Dated at Tolland, Connecticut, this 9th day of April, 2019.


Michelle A. Finnegan
Clerk
Town Council
Tolland, Connecticut