

**MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**405 Main Street**  
**Middlefield, Connecticut 06455**

Revised Minutes of the November 9, 2017 Board of Finance Regular Meeting

Attendance:

Members		Others	
X	Irish, Jim	X	Bailey, Ed
X	Lowry, David		
X	Malcolm, Alice		
X	Nick, Joel		
X	Wolak, Mary		
X	Yamartino, Bob	X	Rusilowicz, Al

A=Absent

X=Present

Bob Yamartino called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm.

Approval of Agenda

Bob Yamartino suggested item (5) be removed from the agenda as it addressed in the joint meeting and comments from Ed Bailey and Al Rusilowicz be added.

Dave Lowry made a motion, seconded by Jim Irish, to approve the agenda, as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

Ann Olszewski, speaking as the tax collector and as a taxpayer, thanked all of the officials who are leaving and those who are coming in.

Ed Bailey explained that summaries of the state budget came out today from both Connecticut School Finance Project and CCM. He also explained that the ECS formula is being phased in over a period of time. He pointed out what the amounts would be per year for the next 10 years, going from \$3,451 per student now to \$2,770 in 10 years. He then took those numbers and applied them to the declining enrollment which brings the total numbers from \$1.99 million this year to \$1.37 million in 10 years. Mr. Bailey emphasized that special attention needs to be paid to the per student cost.

Mr. Bailey reported that Durham will be losing \$732 per student and with declining enrollment will go from \$3.7 million down to \$1.7 million over the 10-year period. He also mentioned that the median household income for Middlefield in 2016 was \$105,809 and was \$113,152 in Durham.

Discussion continued about the joint meeting that was held last night with the Board of Education, Boards of Selectmen and Boards of Finance. A question was also asked about who paid to open Korn School for Durham's election. Bob Yamartino also commented that the Utilization Committee with also be discussing the carrying costs of Korn School.

Bob Yamartino also explained that the budget bill that was passed stated that regional school districts may appoint a financial oversight board with two members from each town as well as members from the Board of Education. He reminded everyone that he has been working to get the Board of Education to appoint community members to committees and that policy will hopefully go to the full Board next month. Mr. Yamartino has a couple of people in mind that would be willing to serve on the ERC.

Mr. Yamartino stated that the second policy he will propose is to limit transfers between line items to no more than \$20,000. Last year, there was a foreign language position at the high school that was eliminated and a foreign language position was added at the middle school (which was approximately \$100,000). State law is currently written that the school district does not have to stay within line items of a budget.

Jeremy Renninghoff read the language from the budget bill regarding establishing the finance oversight committee.

Jon Brayshaw commented that he went to a Board of Education meeting 10 to 15 years ago where he found out that that the District had never bid out health insurance because the president of Blue Cross lived in Durham. Ed Bailey stated that he and Laura Francis have been talking with Dr. Veronesi to make sure that all three entities are on the same page when it comes to health insurance. Al Rusilowicz explained that the District hired a different consultant than the towns use and the relationship between the Superintendent and the towns' consultant seems to be a bit contentious. Mr. Rusilowicz was told that the original bid for the consultant was \$30,000 when the District hired them and it has now gone to \$150,000. Mr. Bailey reiterated that the towns are pursuing getting all four entities (the two towns, the District and DMIAAB) on the same page and to rebid health insurance.

It was also reviewed that, under State statute, the chairman of the Board of Education of a regional school district has all of the powers and authority of a mayor and the district is a separate entity from the towns.

Bob Yamartino thanked Ed Bailey for presenting the town's position so well at last night's joint meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Debi Waz*

Debi Waz  
Alwaz First