

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Finance Committee  
of the  
Trumbull Board of Education

Long Hill Administration Building  
Tuesday, November 26, 2019  
5:45 pm

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

1. Approval of Minutes of October 24, 2019 Meeting
2. New Business
  - a.) Update on Breakfast Program in the Middle Schools and Additional Elementary Schools
  - b.) Review - Monthly Reporting of New/Unbudgeted SPED-Related Expense
  - c.) Review of Financials thru October 31, 2019
  - d.) Review/Approve BOE Finance Committee Calendar for 2020
3. Old Business
  - a.) Update on Bridgeport Magnet Tuition / SPED Billing (if any)

Note: Items may be added to the agenda under New Business with a 2/3 vote of the members.

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Finance Committee of the Trumbull Board of Education

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Date of meeting:**

Thursday, October 24, 2019

**Attendees:** Loretta Chory, Jackie Norcel, Kathleen Fearon, Sean O'Keefe

**Additional Attendees:** Pauline Smith, Dawn Perkins

**Location:** Trumbull High School

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 P.M.

The committee approved the minutes from the September 26, 2019 meeting by unanimous consent.

Mrs. Perkins reviewed her monthly report of unbudgeted transportation related to Special Education requirements. As of the October 2019 report, Mrs. Perkins estimated that the unbudgeted amount to be \$414K which is approximately \$20K higher than her previous report. This included a \$58K expense for a new route that Mrs. Perkins was able to negotiate down by \$43K by reimbursing a parent for mileage vs establishing a new bus route. Mrs. Perkins also mentioned that there were two potential requests for transportation that she was following closely. Mrs. Smith reported that since September 2019, there has been a net increase of 32 Special Education students (+4%) into the district. As a result of the net increase, costs for outplaced tuition, transportation, and Paraprofessional support has increased and will likely drive the overall Special Education budget to overrun despite actions to mitigate these unanticipated expenses. Mrs. Smith also mentioned some concerns for 2020-21 including space and transportation requirements for the Elite Program which is anticipated to have 17 participants next year. Discussion ensued including how to further offset these overruns for the current year and how to adequately provide for the Elite Program in 2020-21 in the most cost effective manner possible. The Committee thanked Mrs. Perkins and Mrs. Smith for their attendance at the Finance Committee meeting.

Next was a brief update by Mr. O'Keefe on the recently expanded Breakfast Program at the Elementary and Middle Schools. Mr. O'Keefe reported that the program was continuing to gain traction each week and that all schools were performing well. As expected, the "free and reduced" participation continued to outpace the "paid" participation which was viewed very positively by the Committee.

Mr. O'Keefe then reviewed the financial reports as of September 30, 2019. Mr. O'Keefe reviewed the financial summary and stated that he was very concerned about the current status of the unbudgeted Special Education and related transportation expenses and the district's ability to

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fully mitigate. He responded to a number of questions in certain accounts and the Committee accepted the financial reports as of September 30, 2019.

Finally, Mr. O'Keefe reviewed the conclusion of the analysis performed by Siegel Consulting regarding the feasibility of obtaining cost savings by going out to bid for the health plan. Based on the analysis, Siegel Consulting reported that given the district's prior 12 months of claims data (\$2.5M over paid premiums), it was extremely unlikely that the Trumbull Board of Education would benefit from bidding an "equal to or better" health plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M.