



Colchester Board of Education Minutes Budget Committee

Date: Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Time: 7:30 AM

Place: BOE Conference Room

Members Present: Chairman Tim Lamp, Donald Kennedy, Mary Tomasi

Administration Present: Karen Loiselle, Maggie Cosgrove, Greg Plunkett
Katherine Shaughnessy

Others Present: Robert Esteve, Ronald Goldstein, Eva Gallupe

1. Call to Order

Chairman Tim Lamp called the meeting to order at 7:35 AM

2. Citizen Comments

None

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion by: Donald Kennedy

To approve the minutes from the February 3, 2010 meeting.

Seconded by: Mary Tomasi

Vote: Unanimous

4. FY 2009-2010 Financial Reports

- **Monthly Budget Reports**

Ms. Cosgrove presented the financial report as of February 28, 2010, noting that overexpended line items have been discussed in detail at previous meetings.

- **Budget Transfers**

None

- **Health Insurance Reserve**

Ms. Cosgrove presented the report for January, noting that the balance in the self insurance fund has improved since the beginning of the fiscal year.

- **Special Education Excess Cost Report**
Ms. Shaughnessy reviewed changes within the tuition and transportation accounts. It was noted that the increases in transportation can be partially attributed to the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act concerning the homeless.

Ms. Loiselle and Ms. Shaughnessy informed the Committee that the State Legislature is considering legislation that would prohibit Regional Educational Service Centers from providing special education transportation. This transportation is currently provided by LEARN for the Colchester Public Schools.

5. Old Business

- **Status of OCR Violations**

Ms. Loiselle reported that a letter was received from the State requesting a status update by March 8, 2010.

Mr. Plunkett reviewed the results for the Fire Alarm Strobe/Horn Bid.

- **2010-11 Budget Development**

The Committee reviewed the budget discussions and feedback received at BOE meetings. It was noted that BOE members have been attending meetings of various community groups to answer questions regarding the budget. It was also noted that the BOE would vote on the budget to be presented to the BOF at the March 9th meeting.

The Committee also discussed how to address misinformation presented in blog comments.

6. New Business

- **WJJMS Facility Needs**

Ms. Loiselle presented a letter from NEASC stating that the accreditation of Bacon Academy has been continued and the school has been removed from the warning for the Standard Assessment of Student Learning, acknowledging significant progress to address cited deficiencies.

However, the NEASC Commission also expressed concern regarding the limited progress or lack of a plan to address facility needs.

After a detailed discussion, the Committee recommended that the Space Needs Assessment Committee reconvene to address the growing facility needs of WJJMS and Bacon.

- **WJJMS Portable Classrooms**
Ms. Loiselle raised the issue of what to do with portable classrooms that were no longer required by the State to be used for school purposes. The Committee decided to table any action at this time.
- **Reductions to Shared Positions with Town**
Ms. Loiselle informed the Committee that the First Selectman's proposed Town budget includes Parks and Recreation staffing changes that could have a potential impact on grounds maintenance at the schools.
- **Corporate Sponsorships**
Ms. Loiselle requested guidance on developing a policy regarding corporate sponsorship related to athletic programs. After a brief discussion it was the consensus of the Committee that this be referred to the Policy Committee. It was also noted that restrictions be included to only allow banners and signs to be placed in gym and field areas and prohibit products such as alcohol or tobacco.
- **Unemployment Benefits Consultant**
Ms. Cosgrove presented a proposal to contract services related to the processing of unemployment claims. After a brief discussion it was the consensus of the Committee to move forward with the proposal.

7. Information Handouts

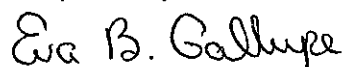
- **Verdiem Audit: Electrical savings**
Copy of audit is attached to the minutes.
- **CIAC Budget Memo to Superintendents**
Copy of the letter is attached to the minutes.

8. Adjournment

Motion by: Mary Tomasi
To adjourn meeting.
Seconded by: Donald Kennedy
Vote: Unanimous

Chairman Tim Lamp adjourned the meeting at 9:20 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Eva Gallupe
Financial Administrator

CT Budget Committee

THE CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE



January 22, 2010

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FNT

JM

Ms. Deborah Low, President
Southern Fairfield County
Superintendents' Association
70 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877

OFFICERS:

Chair

George Synnott, Principal
Berlin High School

Vice Chair

Robert Hale, Jr., Principal
Westbrook High School

Secretary

Steve Wysowski, Principal
Coginchaug High School, Durham

Treasurer

Paul Newton, Principal
Enrico Fermi High School, Enfield

Dear President Low,

Thank you for your letter of January 8, 2010 concerning the difficult budget season ahead. Being responsible for the regulation of all Connecticut high school interscholastic activities, we are acutely aware of the fact that, invariably, athletic programs are a prime target when local districts have to make difficult decisions regarding budget cuts. Hence, we have had several discussions, especially this past year, about steps we could take to reduce our operational expenses and, more importantly, the expenses incurred by the member schools we serve. In fact, the CIAC board considered, on two separate occasions within the past year, proposals for cost-saving measures that were predicated on actions taken by other state athletic associations. One such proposal involved limiting game competitions during the regular season. However, after lengthy discussions, the board voted in favor of allowing local districts and leagues to make decisions that best served their constituents. It did so after reviewing the amount of flexibility that now exists within our regulations that permits school teams to participate in post-season competition with significantly reduced regular season schedules.

At its meeting on January 21, the CIAC Board of Control reviewed your letter. Below, I have attempted to summarize the most substantive comments that were made in response to each of the cost-reduction strategies proposed in your letter.

1. Freeze all membership dues rates and entry fees at 2009-10 levels.

A freeze was instituted for the present year (2009-10). There were no increases in school membership dues or entry fees. During the preceding year, there was a nominal increase in dues (\$100) at the high school membership level. In addition, there were no association salary increases at the administrative level; no additional staff hired; and no new programs initiated. Our overall budget increases were less than 3% and those increases were offset by either eliminating programs, tightening line item accounts or taking the money from our limited reserve account. In addition, we had to absorb an \$82,000 loss in state funding that provided us with the funds necessary to continue to operate our Principals' Center which provides the professional development activities that our member schools utilize at no cost to their local districts. Without that funding, we are continuing to offer those programs. This is all happening with the full awareness that both the CABE dues and CAPSS dues will increase by 2% this coming year to cover their additional expenses. CAPSS' budget is 18% of the size of our budget and its reserve account is at a comfortable level of 75% of its total operating budget. Our total reserve account is presently \$200,000 less than that of CAPSS and represents 15% of our operating budget. This is a dangerously low reserve, especially when we rely to a great degree on our tournament revenue, which is erratic and unpredictable from one season to the next. A major sports tournament impacted by bad weather can produce devastating results for us. I use this example because it illustrates the fact that we are constantly in need of looking for cost savings measures in our operation. We haven't and don't plan to place the burden on our member schools.

CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF:

Executive Director

Michael Savage

Associate Executive Director

Paul Hoey

Executive Staff

Matthew Fischer

Robert Lehr

Joseph Tonelli

Unified Sports@

Ken Bragg

Robert Deasy

Lou Pear

Beth Rasmussen

The Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference

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Affiliated with
the National
Federation of State
High School
Associations

5. **Conduct a review to identify possible other program and site issues where cost to individual schools could be reduced by modifications in the ways that FCIAC and CIAC structure athletic competition.**

The CIAC has a committee composed of coaches, athletic directors, building administrators, and, in some cases, superintendents for each of the twenty-six sports it sponsors. Under the guidance of the CIAC Board of Control, each committee has the specific charge to promote the most equitable, safe and competitive post-season tournament within a limited budget. The budget parameters are established by the board of control and committees must make every effort to stay within those figures. A CIAC staff member is responsible for containing expenses and must answer to the executive director (and hence the board of control). We have little if any control over the income derived from our tournaments. For the past thirty years, our records show that we have been consistent in staying well within budget allocations and, in many cases, we have been within 1% of budget. We are proud that we have been able to provide superb competition at prime venues within our state to make a high school athlete's participation a life-time memory. We have done that when the costs of operating our tournaments have increased in the recent past approximately 7% more than the revenue generated from them. We have done that without asking schools for more than nominal increases in membership dues. We have bridged the gap as a result of our successes with sponsorships, grants, and increases in ticket prices. Further, as a direct result of your letter, the CIAC board reviewed a proposal which would reduce regular season schedules in all sports by 20% starting in 2010-2011, with the reduced schedule remaining in place until such time as the board determined it was appropriate to reverse it. (See attachment #2) However, following a lengthy discussion by the board, the proposal was rejected by a unanimous vote. Such a move would destroy league and out-of-league schedules, allow programs such as AAU to further intrude upon the high school seasons, and, in addition to other repercussions, decrease the amount of time students are involved in wholesome school activities as athletes and fans.

Historically, superintendents have been very supportive of the CIAC and allowed it to promote honorable athletic activities at venues that are suitable for operating quality tournaments under safe conditions. We have been very conservative in our financial operations and, where possible, tried to remove the financial burden from our member schools. It is the promise of the board of control that we will strive to continue to follow that same course of action as we move through these difficult financial times ahead. We have an obligation to do no less and, with the continued support of our superintendents, high school administrators and athletic administrators, we will succeed.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Savage
Executive Director

cc: George Synnott, Chairman, CIAC Board of Control
V. Everett Lyons, President, CAS Board of Directors
Joseph Cirasuolo, Executive Director, CAPSS
John Ramos, Sr., Superintendent, Bridgeport
Evan Pitkoff, Executive Director, CES
Donald Fiftal, Superintendent, Darien
Michael Cicchetti, Superintendent, Region #9
Ann Clark, Superintendent, Fairfield
Sidney Freund, Superintendent, Greenwich
Colleen Palmer, Superintendent, Monroe
David Abbey, Superintendent, New Canaan
Janet Robinson, Superintendent, Newtown
William Papallo, Superintendent, Norwalk
Freeman Burr, Superintendent, Shelton
Joshua Staff, Superintendent, Stamford
Ralph Iassogna, Superintendent, Trumbull
Jerry Belair, Superintendent, Weston
Elliott Landon, Superintendent, Westport
Gary Richard, Superintendent, Wilton

SURVEYOR – Colchester Public Schools Analysis

This report details the status of the SURVEYOR system at Colchester Public Schools (CPSR) from data provided 02/11/2010. The analysis contrasts the baseline consumption rate against the enforcement consumption rate. This report specifically looks at how energy consumption rates have been affected by the SURVEYOR product and what further energy savings may be realized.

Overview

SURVEYOR was deployed into the CPSR network 12/04/2008, currently reporting 1055 computers installed. With policies in place (that is, with SURVEYOR managing the power on these computers), the average per-PC energy consumption rate was 282 kWh. The average rate for these same computers during the pre-SURVEYOR 'baseline' monitoring stage was 602 kWh.

Simply comparing the pre-SURVEYOR consumption rate to the current (enforced) consumption rate indicates an annual energy savings rate for the entire population of computers of 320 kWh per PC per year. Based on the current number of licensed computers, this equates to an annual savings of approximately \$40,543.65.

The following charts show consumption comparisons between the post-enforcement period and the pre-SURVEYOR baseline value. The charts assume an energy rate \$.12 per kWh. Following the comparison are charts showing current average hours of operation and the currently configured enforcement groups.