

Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes December 17, 2018

Attendees: Dr. Walter Willett, Sam Adlerstein, Christina Plourd, Jeff Schroeder

1. Transportation Negotiations

The current transportation contract ends with FY 18-19. The Board of Education is utilizing a transportation consultant to advise and provide recommendations for the next contract. The following main options are currently being considered:

- Accept bid submitted by First Student, the current transportation contractor.
- Put contract out for general bid.
- Join with other school districts/towns.

2. Foundation Update

The current information concerning the crumbling foundations was reviewed. More information will be available when Silva Engineering LLC, the civil and structural engineering services company performing the testing, releases their final report on their testing. Dr. Willett will be meeting with Konstantinos Diamantis, Director of School Construction State of CT on Thursday, Dec. 20. A possible committee including the Town Council, Board of Education, Town Manager, Superintendent and others to discuss options regarding the crumbling foundations has been proposed.

3. Proportionality Considerations for ERF to Communicate to the TC

A review of the recently revised Education Reserve Fund ordinance was performed based on a request from the Board of Education to address proportionality regarding the ability of the Town Council to deny in part or in whole the appropriation if the State reduces the ECS funding to the Town of Tolland. A close reading of the final text of the Education Reserve Fund ordinance showed ambiguity and discretion in section 8.2 that may differ from the stated changes. Some questions regarding the wording in section 8.2 include the following:

- Section 8.2 first clause of the first sentence states, “[S]ubject to audit confirmation of the Board of Education’s available year end balance and the status of the unassigned General Fund - fund balance”.
 - What does the status of the unassigned General Fund – fund balance mean and how will this affect the appropriation of the Education Reserve Fund? What situations would cause this clause to be activated in preventing the appropriation of funds to the Education Reserve Fund?
- Section 8.2 last sentence of the first paragraph states, “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.”

- How will the Town decide the ECS revenue number in the Town budget? Will they use the expected ECS revenue number from the State or can they use an internally estimated ECS number?
- If the ECS revenue from the state is less than provided in the Town budget, can the Town withhold the full appropriation request of the BOE even if it is greater than the withheld ECS revenue from the state? For example, if the ECS revenue from the state is \$1 less than provided in the Town budget, can the Town withhold not only the \$1 less than provided in the Town budget, but also the remainder of the full appropriation request from the BOE even if the remainder is over \$300,000?
- If funds were previously appropriated, can those funds be reduced in part or whole at the discretion of the Town council?