

*Minutes*  
*Regular Meeting of the RTM Education Committee*  
*Monday, January 29, 2018*

**Place:**

Darien Town Hall, Room 119

Start Time: 7:30 p.m.

**Members Present:** Lucy Fiore, Janet Grogan, Jay Hardison, Patrick Keane, Young-Sup Lee, Caroline McGoey, Ann Reed, Peter Riordan, Clara Sartori, Sandra Savage, Bill Smith, Barbara Thorne, Theresa Vogt

**Members Absent:** Edward Washecka

**Call to Order:**

Ann Reed called the meeting to order with a quorum at 7:32 p.m.

**Agenda:**

- Discussion of the January 23rd BOE meeting including the official comments of the RTM Finance & Budget Committee and the Board of Finance.
- Members discussed the unexpected increase of the budget from 2.75% to 3.01% due to a one time “charge” towards pension contributions. The one time “charge” is based on the recommendation of the new actuary firm hired by the town. The town and the BOE were not contributing enough to the pensions of non-teaching administrators. The BOE has no control over this line increase.
  - Is the town or BOE looking into whether nor they should hold the previous firm accountable for their mistake
- We reviewed the line items mentioned by the BOE as areas where the Superintendent should take a closer look and areas where there should be cuts
  - More specifically we discussed the proposed cuts of the entire JV and Freshman teams at Darien High School, the reduction of Clubs and Councils, and the elimination of the Tuba
  - Where are gate receipts in the revenues and where does the money go?
  - There was a discussion of the roles of the Department Chairs and how their jobs differ from the Assistant Principals
  - Some members would like a closer look at the capital budget for Hindley
  - Look at the ECS numbers and why would we ask them to raise that number when the pot is finite
    - The number could be low as a way to be conservative. There could be a windfall or not
- The committee agrees that cuts and decreases should not affect students directly
- Need to look at all these line items in more details, get more specificity (which was expected to happen at the January 30 BOE meeting)
- In discussing athletics, we wondered what exactly will the deep dive into athletics encompass and will that meeting at their retreat be open to the public.
- Discussed that any major cuts would have to come from big thematic ideas

- Can we really hold the operating side to 0
- Are their efficiencies we can take advantage of
- How granular will the BOF be when they look at the capital projects
- How can the Board of Ed be more transparent with capital projects and should they be in open gov system
- Discussion around Fitch Academy focused on quantifying the potential savings to the District and future revenue opportunities.

Ann Reed reminded members of the BOE meeting the following night, the agenda for which would be public comment on the budget and then the follow up discussion by the Administration with regard to the line items they were asked to review. It was highly recommend that members attend the meeting.

We also discussed at what point we meet with the F&B committee to discuss the budget as we determine our recommendation for the RTM.

At the request of several members, Ann Reed agreed to look into a potential meeting with the BOE prior to their vote on 2/13. **And then I'll ask about the meeting with the Board of Ed, Jay, to see when we can set that up."** (added quote per Jay Hardison's request at 2/12/18 RTM Education Meeting.)

#### ADJOURNMENT

Peter Riordan moved to adjourn

Bill Smith seconded the motion

The motion passed unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Vogt  
RTM Education Clerk