

**MINUTES OF CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
HELD AT DODD MIDDLE SCHOOL ON MAY 1, 2025 AT 6:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Samantha Rosenberg, Chair (virtual); Anne Harrigan, Vice Chair; Adam Grippo, Secretary; Anne Marie Cullinan; Timothy White

Board Members Absent: Anthony Perugini; Mark Ecke

Administrators Present: Jeffrey F. Solan, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; Vincent Masciana, Chief Operating Officer; Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Robin-Anne Carey, Director, Pupil Personnel Services; Kevin Hanlon, Principal, Cheshire High School; Maureen Reed, Ed.D., Assistant Principal, Cheshire High School; Daniel Tartarelli, Assistant Principal, Cheshire High School; Kelly Grillo, Principal, Dodd Middle School; Ryan Murphy, Assistant Principal, Dodd Middle School; Diana Burns, Ed.D., Principal, Chapman Elementary School; Katharine Carlucci, Assistant Principal, Chapman & Norton Elementary Schools; Kimberly Dessert, Principal, Darcey School; Amy O'Brien, Principal, Doolittle School; Kristin Lopa, Assistant Principal, Doolittle School; Jodie Roden, Principal, Norton School; Scott Jeffrey, Principal, Highland Elementary School; Christina Sherwood, Supervisor of Elementary Special Education; Marie Broadway, Supervisor of Secondary Special Education

1. Call to Order – 6:05 p.m.

A. Roll Call for Quorum. A Quorum was determined.

B. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Dr. Harrigan led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Dr. Solan noted it was Principal Appreciation Day and thanked the administrators for their work.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Discussion Regarding Reductions to the 2025/2026 Board of Education Budget

Superintendent Solan shared documents that outlined his suggested reductions to meet the Town Council's reduction of \$2,632,136. He noted that class sizes will remain the same, 18.8 even with the reductions he is making. He reported enrollment is high with kindergarten enrollment already within 4 students of the projected number. He said this never happens and it is concerning because we normally get the majority of our enrollments over the summer. He said they make every effort to reduce spending as far away from the classroom as they can. He shared the list of discretionary items, those items that are not contractual and that have been reduced as low as he responsibly can.

Dr. Solan reviewed the spread sheet of reductions line by line (on file). Some notable items include that they have budgeted for 6 retirements and to date, have only received 4. One of those retirements, the chemistry position, will not be filled next year. Also, the student participation fee will be increased from \$130 to \$140 for all sports except hockey which will increase from \$235 to \$250. They will carryover \$250,000 from this year's budget to help fill the gap. There is a reduction of five paraeducator positions, the elimination of a Darcey library clerk and the project manager position that is shared with the Town is being eliminated.

Dr. Solan next reviewed the reductions to Instructional Expense, Support Services and Maintenance and Operations.

Reduction needed	\$2,632,136
Carryover	<u>250,000</u>
Impact to BOE Approved Request:	\$2,382,136.

Discussion:

Discussion ensued regarding possible impacts with these cuts. Dr. Solan reviewed the items that were approved in the Board of Education budget that are not included with the reductions: 5 paraeducators, the curriculum STEM position, chemistry teacher at CHS, a halftime art position, and elementary Spanish. Dr. Solan said he wants to be clear that students are getting Chemistry next year, there are other teachers.

Dr. Solan said he had a conversation with the Town Manager and Council Chairman Talbot about the state budget which is not completed yet. He said if they receive significantly more money than they anticipated, he will go back to them and look to add more staff.

4. Possible Action Regarding 2025/2026 Board of Education Budget

MOTION by Ms. Cullinan and seconded by Mr. Grippo.

MOVED that the Finance Committee recommends to the full Board of Education an operating budget for the fiscal year 2025/2026 in the amount of \$93,124,314 as appropriated by the Town Council, representing a reduction of \$2,632,136 from the Board of Education approved budget. The Reductions are as follows:

111	DIRECTORS/SUPERVISORS	-\$175,000
113	TEACHERS	-\$435,000
117	STUDENT ACTIVITIES	-\$12,000
116	PARAEDUCATORS	-\$125,000
119	MANAGERS/SUPERVISORS	-\$55,000
123	SUPPORT	-\$9,000
130	STAFF TRAINING	-\$6,585
323	PUPIL SERVICES	-\$27,071
611	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLY	-\$152,394
641	TEXTBOOKS/SOFTWARE	-\$115,003
642	LIBRARY/PERIODICALS	-\$12,540

643	CURRICULUM MATERIALS	-\$9,000
644	LIBRARY/MEDIA SUPPLIES	-\$9,817
645	TESTING SUPPLIES	-\$23,503
730	REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT	-\$125,000
731	NEW EQUIPMENT	-\$121,904
440	RENTALS/LEASES	-\$34,605
510	PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	-\$25,000
530	TELEPHONE/INTERNET SERVICES	-\$8,650
531	COMMUNICATIONS	-\$10,647
580	TRAVEL/CONFERENCE	-\$1,100
610	OFFICE SUPPLY	-\$29,280
627	TRANSPORTATION SUPPLY	-\$34,560
690	OTHER SUPPLY	-\$1,463
732	CAPITAL EQUIPMENT	-\$180,000
810	DUES/FEES	-\$3,892
420	MAINTENANCE/REPAIR EQUIPMENT	-\$34,970
430	MAINTENANCE/REPAIR BUILDINGS	-\$717,766
613	MAINTENANCE SUPPLY	-\$91,986
620	HEAT/ENERGY	-\$44,400

VOTE: The Motion passed 6-0.

5. Adjournment

With a Motion by Mr. White and seconded by Ms. Cullinan, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Anne Harrigan, Board Vice Chair

Attest:

Carol K. Jesensky, Board of Education Clerk

Filed at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Cheshire: 5/16/2025.