

*Minutes*  
*Regular Meeting of the RTM Education Committee*  
*Monday, May 6, 2019*

**Place:**

Darien Town Hall, Auditorium

Start Time: 8:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Curtis Butler, Karen McNicholl, Clara Sartori, Barbara Thorne, Petr Marousek, Carolina McGoey, Edward Washecka, Lucy Fiore, Ann Reed, Sheila Sherwood, Liza Lucas, Theresa Vogt

**Members Absent:** Janet Grogan, Sarah Neumann and Jay Hardison

**Call to Order:**

Clara Sartori called the meeting to order with a quorum at 8:05 p.m.

**Motion to Approve Minutes from the Meeting on 4/8/19:**

- Ann Reed made a motion to approve the minutes;
- Theresa Vogt seconded the motion;
- The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Motion to Approve Minutes from the Meeting on 4/1/19:**

- Sheila Sherwood made a motion to approve the minutes;
- Ann Reed seconded the motion;
- The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Motion to Approve Minutes from the Meeting on 1/28/19:**

- Ann Reed made a motion to approve the minutes;
- Barbara Thorne seconded the motion;
- The minutes were approved unanimously with one abstention (Lucy Fiore)

**Motion to Approve Minutes from the Meeting on 1/10/19:**

- Theresa Vogt made a motion to approve the minutes;
- Ann Reed seconded the motion;
- The minutes were approved unanimously with one abstention (Lucy Fiore)

**Agenda:**

Discussion and Vote on the 2019-2020 Recommended Board of Education Operating Budget of \$100,118, 409, which represents a 2.03% increase over the 2018-2019 BOE Operating Budget.

The majority of the members expressed their support of the 2019-2020 Operating Budget. One member was not in favor of the budget stating that the increases each year are unsustainable, particularly given the uncertainties in Hartford. The member also stated that the Administration

should be able to find the money they need for the four additional psychologists within a \$100+ million budget, or they should have waited until a new Superintendent was hired who could then make the determination as to whether or not the four psychologist are necessary. Another member agreed with this statement, yet voted in favor of the budget.

Other members expressed their concern with the substitute teacher line, as well as the practice at the high school of teachers giving up their planning time to cover classes for \$30/class.

***Final Vote of the 2019-2020 Board of Education Operating Budget of \$100,118, 409:***

- ***Theresa Vogt made a motion to approve the 2019-2020 BOE Operating Budget***
- ***Ann Reed seconded the motion.***
- ***The motion passed 11-1 with Lucy Fiore opposed.***

The committee did not discuss or vote on the 2019-2020 Board of Education Capital Budget as we were not given any documents related to it.

In other business, the committee discussed the Active Shooter drills and the potential for further security at the elementary schools (possible SROs at each school) as well as public access to Darien High School. The committee would like to hear directly from the police and the public regarding these issues.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

- Ann Reed made a motion to adjourn the meeting;
- Karen McNicholl seconded the motion to adjourn;
- The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Vogt  
RTM Education Co-Vice Chair