

RTM Education Committee  
June 3, 2020

8:00 AM  
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JUN 22 2020  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
DARIEN CT.

Attending: Clara Sartori, Theresa Vogt, Ann Reed, Carolina McGooley, Karen McNicoll, Petr Marousek, Liza Lucas, Ed Waschecka, Barbara Thorne, Janet Grogan, Lucy Fiore  
Missing: Curtis Roach, Joan Davis

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm  
This meeting was called to discuss and vote on the 2020-2021 School Budget.

Discussion was around thoughts the Committee members had about the Board of Finance cuts made to the School Budget. There were many comments but Petr Marousek spoke for several members of the committee commenting that the methods and actions of the Board of Finance were not transparent and were leaving the Board of Education and administration in a situation that would definitely effect educational programs and the student experience. Petr told the committee that he had had conversations with Mr. Zagrotsky, Chair of the Board of Finance. Further comments also focused on Covid related expenses that will be incurred in the potential opening of schools in the Fall. The extend and amount of expenses is completely unknown and there was concern that the cutting of the budget further hampers the Administration and Board of Education in managing their budget.

Ann Reed mentioned that there had been meetings over the previous weekend attended by several republican members of the Board of Education, Jill Mccammon, a BOE member who was listening to the meeting said that there had been 1 meeting, that it was called a caucus and that she would give to the committee the legal documents that show that the caucus was a proper event. There are no minutes or notes. Mrs. Sartori did ask for those documents.

Discussion ensued about this topic and its appropriateness

Discussion ensued as to whether to call for a vote on the budget. Ann Reed proposed a motion and Carolina McGooley seconded. Petr Marousek then requested the opportunity to speak about waiting to hold the vote until right before the RTM vote on June 8<sup>th</sup> in case any new developments occurred prior to the RTM meeting which might make some members change their minds. Mr. Marousek made a motion to this effect but there was no second.

A vote was then taken on approving the budget. The vote was 10 for and 1 abstention. At least 3 members of the committee commented that their approval was only because if the budget was rejected the Administration would have to fall back on last year's budget which would not be adequate to cover expenses and programs.

Meeting was at 7 pm

Respectfully Submitted  
Ann Reed

Meeting was adjourned at 8:49 PM