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Cc:

BOARD OF FINANCE
APRIL 6, 2010
SPECIAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Board of Finance was called to order at 9:40 P.M. in the Simsbury High School Auditorium. The following members were present: Paul Henault, Peter Askham, Candace Fitzpatrick, Nicholas Mason, Anita Mielert and Kevin North. Also present were Director of Finance Kevin Kane, Superintendent of Schools, Diane Ullman, Board of Education Business Manager David Holden and other interested parties.

2. ACTION ON THE PROPOSED 2010/11 OPERATING BUDGETS

Mr. Henault asked for the members' thoughts on comments made by the public and the presentations made by the two boards at the Public Hearing; there were none. He noted that many speakers had asked to restore the Board of Education budget increase to 2% and asked if the members had any interest in raising the budget increase from 1.6% to 2%.

Mr. Askham stated that he heard a lot of comments from teachers, who have a vested interest in the system, but unfortunately did not negotiate like they should have. Therefore, he supported keeping it at 1.6%.

Ms. Mielert had no interest in increasing above the 1.6% level as half of that difference is one administrator who is retiring. Therefore, the difference would not be as earth shattering as many of the speakers implied.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that she expected to have parents of school-aged children in the audience supporting the Board of Education budget. What bothered her was they kept referring to "budget cuts" and there is no budget cut, but rather there is a spending increase. Since education

spending is driven by personnel costs, cuts in spending will result, but there has not been any budget cut; there is really a proposed budget increase.

Mr. Mason stated that he had no interest in using reserves due to the potential cuts in Educational Cost Sharing revenue from the State that could materialize next year.

Mr. North made a motion to move all four budgets, as presented and enumerated in the legal notice that appeared in the Hartford Courant, on to Town Meeting for ultimate presentation and consideration at Town Referendum. Mr. Askham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Henault adjourned the meeting at 9:45 P.M.

Paul Henault, Chairman

Debra L. Sweeney, Clerk