

**Board of Finance  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 7, 2017**

**1. Call to Order:** Chairman Michael Dougherty called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**2. Roll Call:** Ronald Cabana, Frederick Chmura, Michael Dougherty, Glen Lessig, David Fortin, David Richardson, Roy Bradrick and Jeffrey Kelleher were all present. David Hosmer was absent with notification.

**Others:** Viktor Toth, Superintendent of Schools, Chris Sandford, Headmaster of Woodstock Academy, members of the Board of Education, and approximately 40 citizens.

**3. Seat Alternate if Necessary:** David Fortin, seconded by Ronald Cabana, made a motion to seat David Richardson for tonight's meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

David Fortin would like to add to tonight's agenda, under New Business item b. Bylaw and Policy Manual. Mr. Dougherty agreed that this could be added.

**4. Approve Minutes from February 14, 2017 BOF Regular Meeting:** Chairman Dougherty requested that the minutes from the February 14, 2017 meeting be tabled to a future meeting.

David Fortin, seconded by Glen Lessig made a motion to table the approval of the February 14, 2017 meeting minutes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**5. Citizens Participation:** None.

**6. Old Business:** None.

**7. New Business:**

**A. Board of Education FY 17-18 Budget/Five Year Capital Plan:** Woodstock Academy Headmaster gave the Board of Finance and the audience a quick overview of the Woodstock Academy budget. He emphasized that this was an exciting time in the history of Woodstock Academy with the purchase of the Hyde School. He explained that the sending towns would pay 1/3 of the cost of the purchase of the "South Campus" and that the boarding students would pay the other 2/3. He said that every sending town would have access to the facilities at the South Campus.

Mr. Sandford and Superintendent Viktor Toth further explained that last year, in an effort to save costs in Special Education, both at the Woodstock Public Schools and at Woodstock Academy, the positions of Special Education director were combined. They also announced that there were serious discussions in converting part of the South Campus into a Special Education wing in the hopes that students who now needed outplacement services would no longer need to be sent to other educational facilities. This would create a huge savings in Special Education and transportation costs.

After Mr. Sandford's presentation, Mr. Toth presented the Board of Education's budget of \$17,564,176.00, which is a 3.88% increase from last year's budget. The main areas of increase in the budget are in the following line items: Special Education outplacements, Woodstock Academy tuition and contractual obligations. There have been decreases in the health insurance costs and in electricity

costs. Mr. Toth stressed to the Board of Finance that this budget is not final, due to uncertainties of the Governor's budget. Mr. Toth then answered general questions from the Board of Finance.

David Richardson passed out a sheet in regards to his concerns on revenue changes during the fiscal year 17-18 and during the fiscal year 18-19. Mr. Richardson made a motion, seconded by David Fortin, to direct the Board of Education to come back to the Board of Finance with a budget not to exceed \$16.6 million dollars.

Followed was a lengthy discussion by the Board of Finance and the members of the audience on whether this motion was premature or not. Some people felt that during this time of uncertainty that patience was needed, while others felt it was best to plan for the worse, and hope for the best.

Chairman Dougherty reminded the Board of Finance and the audience that under Proposition 46 guidelines the budget can only increase by \$330,261.00. He suggested that of that \$330,261.00, the Board of Education should be allocated \$280,000.00, or 85%, of the \$330,261.00. This would bring the total Board of Education budget to \$16.88 million.

Mr. Dougherty would like to make an amendment to the original motion to be as follows: to direct the Board of Education to come back to the Board of Finance with a budget not to exceed **\$16.88 million**. David Fortin seconded this amendment.

Mr. Dougherty called for a vote on the amended motion. **Those in favor:** Michael Dougherty, Ronald Cabana, David Fortin and David Richardson. **Those opposed:** Glen Lessig and Fred Chmura. **Motion passes.**

**B. Bylaw and Policy Manual:** David Fortin pointed out that in the Policy and Manual that under Item 7, section a that agenda item "Seat Alternate if Necessary" was omitted. Mr. Fortin, seconded by Fred Chmura made a motion to amend Item 7, section a of the Bylaw and Policy Manual to insert the "Seating of Alternates if Necessary" after the "Roll Call" item of the agenda format. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Fortin also pointed out that the agenda for tonight's meeting were missing the following agenda items: Report of Committees, Unfinished Business, Other from Board. Mr. Lessig agreed to inform Acting Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick of these omissions.

Mr. Lessig feels that the Board of Finance needs to discuss the correct procedures on seating an alternate. He feels that the State Statute that references this is open for interpretation. He would like this to be item c, under New Business on a future agenda.

Glen Lessig, seconded by David Fortin, made a motion to place on the agenda, as item c, under New Business, "the procedure of seating alternates". **Motion passed unanimously.**

David Fortin, seconded by Glen Lessig, made a motion to table item c, under New Business, "the procedure of seating alternates" until the July meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**8. Citizens Participation:** It was the general feeling of the members of the audience that the directive to cut the Board of Education budget to \$16.88 million is premature. Many members of the audience

felt that the cuts should come after the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen have made their presentations to the Board of Finance.

**9. Correspondence & Announcements:** The next Board of Finance meeting will be held on March 14, 2017, at 7:00pm, where the General Budget will be presented.

**10. Adjournment:** David Fortin, seconded by Fred Chmura, made a motion to adjourn at 8:40pm.  
**Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine G. French  
Acting Secretary

**To view a video of this meeting, please visit [WoodstockCT.gov](http://WoodstockCT.gov), and follow the link found on the Home Page.**