

**Coventry Board of Education – Fiscal Committee
Coventry, CT
Approved Minutes
Meeting of Thursday, May 28, 2009**

Members Present: Cheryl Trudon, Fiscal Committee Chair
Mary Kortmann, Fiscal Committee Member
Michael Whitham, Fiscal Committee Member

Also Present: Donna Bernard, Superintendent of Schools

Absent: Sherry Holmes, Fiscal Services Director

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by C. Trudon.

I. Approve Fiscal Minutes from April 30, 2009

Cheri Trudon asked for the following changes:
Page 3, 2nd paragraph should read: Medicaid Billing software program which S. Holmes and J. Richard's secretary have been working on.

Michael Whitham asked for the following changes:
Change page 1 attendance to Present for M. Whitham, not absent.

Motion: To approve the Fiscal Minutes of April 30, 2009 with noted changes.
By: M. Kortmann Seconded: M. Whitham,
Motion Passes.

II. Encumbrance Report for April 2009

Cheri Trudon read the Encumbrance Report for April 2009. She said the only difference for accounts being monitored was the addition of a watch on the athletic trips account. C. Trudon said it is the Athletic and Field Trips account. Dr. Bernard said that Sherry Holmes is watching this account because in May and June many field trips come up.

III. Excess Cost Calculation for 2009

Michael Whitham asked about the tuition category on the Expenditure Report. He asked why it is over budget by \$196,000. Dr. Bernard said Sherry Holmes is expecting more payments to come in for tuition.

Dr. Bernard said we are \$11,000 "to the good" in our projected overall budget for the year.

There was a discussion regarding special education excess cost calculations.

Cheri Trudon suggested that Sherry Holmes give us a report in August/September 2009, when school starts. Mary Kortmann asked if the methodology used from planning our budget could be used to calculate excess costs for special education. M. Kortmann asked to use the same methodology used to project the budget.

Cheri Trudon noted the February amount received for excess cost payment was \$627,039. She said the budget for 2008-09 LEA is \$545,539.99.

Dr. Bernard said the stimulus money specs have not been finalized. She said she is working on clarifications of regulations with the Connecticut State Department of Education. She said the stimulus money cannot be used to cover deficit conditions in our budget. She said the stimulus money must be used in a new program that shows measurable new growth.

Michael Whitham asked why the Liability Insurance went up. Cheri Trudon said it is because of a reassignment of responsibility by the Town of Coventry on some shared property.

Mary Kortmann asked Dr. Bernard if she was satisfied with the formula used for determining the Liability Insurance, for next year, or if the town might decide the Board of Education owes more. Dr. Bernard said she has a meeting with the Town Manager, John Elsesser next week.

There was a discussion about changing the Joint Fiscal Committee meeting from Monday, June 8th to another date.

IV. Budget Items

A. May Projection

Dr. Bernard said the May Projection includes topping off the tanks, under the heat and energy account.

There was a discussion about “what if” we did not get the projected revenue from the sources listed on the June 30, 2009 Budget Projection.

B. Budget Transfers

Budget Transfers were discussed and determined to show up in the reports of the month the budget transfer was voted on.

Dr. Bernard handed out the Shipman and Goodwin invoices to the Fiscal Board members.

Michael Whitham asked why the Athletic salaries were over budget. The Athletic Salaries account was discussed.

The Budget Transfers as of May 19, 2009 were discussed.

Cheri Trudon said it is worth noting that \$38,000 in fees incurred by the Board of Education resulted in the authorization to maintain a one half a million dollar grant called Project Opening Doors.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle M. Bates, BOE Clerk

June 25, 2009

Approved