

TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Tolland Public Library  
Program Room  
Tolland, CT 06084

REGULAR MEETING

7:30 – 10:00 P.M.

AGENDA  
March 14, 2018

**VISION STATEMENT**

*To represent education at its best, preparing each student for an ever-changing society, and becoming a full community of learning where excellence is achieved through each individual's success.*

A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – February 28, 2018

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2-minute limit)

*The members of the Tolland Board of Education welcome members of the public to share their thoughts and ideas at this time. When appropriate to do so, members of the Board and the administration may respond to comments during "Points of Information". However, in consideration of those in attendance and in an effort to proceed in a timely manner, follow-up discussion may need to take place outside of the meeting setting.*

D. CORRESPONDENCE

E. POINTS OF INFORMATION

F. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT - Alexandra Simon and Mallory Goldsmith.

G. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- G.1 Monthly Financial Report
- G.2 2018-2019 School Calendar
- G.3 Contribution
- G.4 MBR FY 2018 and FY 2019
- G.5 POCD Input Request
- G.6 CRE Presentation (no enclosure)

H. COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

I. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

J. BOARD ACTION

K. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2-minute limit)

*Comments must be limited to items on this agenda.*

L. POINTS OF INFORMATION

Town Council Meeting- February 27, 2018

Town Council/Board of Education Special Meeting- March 6, 2018

M. FUTURE

N. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Legal Matters

O. NEW BUSINESS

P. ADJOURNMENT

## **TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Hicks Memorial Center  
Council Chambers  
Tolland, CT 06084

REGULAR MEETING – February 28, 2018

Members Present: Ms. Colleen Yudichak , Chair; Ms. Karen Moran, Vice Chair; Ms. Michelle Harrold, Secretary; Mr. Jeff Schroeder, Ms. Susan Seaver, Ms. Jane Pasini, Mr. Bob Pagoni, Ms. Christina Plourd, Mr. Sam Adlerstein

Members Absent: none

Administrators Present: Dr. Walter Willett, Superintendent of Schools

A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Yudichak called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting – February 14, 2018

Ms. Harrold motioned to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2018 regular meeting.

Ms. Moran seconded the motion. Changes: none. All were in favor. Motion carried.

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Liz Costa, 54 Josiah Lane, thanked the Board, the Superintendent, and the administrators at each school for what appears to be a very planned and relevant assembly to the appropriateness of each school grade level due to the situation in Parkland, FL. She likes the letters and banners ideas as well as the planned moments of remembrance and dialogue and added that she cannot promise that the students will not walk out on March 14<sup>th</sup> but it will not be due to a lack of effort to try to have needed dialogue. She inquired about the schools' approach while it tries to be sensitive to the needs of troubled youth and the last safety evaluation. She appreciates the truth and candor of the recently released 83% full readiness but it gives her trepidation if there were to be a shooting situation in the schools. Ms. Costa cited recommendations to protect teachers and students: monitored cameras on each fire alarm, metal detectors at each door, limit each school to two methods of egress, doorstops/barricades, red tape/paint on the floor to guide students to locations where they are out of view, shades on classroom windows, panic buttons, a school text system to keep students informed, a monitored cctv bank, and bulletproof glass on all doors, windows, and in classrooms. Ms. Costa noted that there are two SROs shared among four schools and expressed concern with this. Lastly, she invited the Board members to join a group of students and parents on March 24<sup>th</sup> who will take a bus to Hartford for the "March for Our Lives" event.

D. CORRESPONDENCE

- An e-mail regarding the calendar
- An e-mail regarding school security

E. POINTS OF INFORMATION

Mr. Pagoni clarified that the "March for Our Lives" event is scheduled for 12:30PM and is in regard to supporting gun reform, mental health reform, and ways to prevent general mass casualty.

F. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT – Alexandra Simon & Mallory Goldsmith

- Snowball – the annual winter semiformal was held Friday and was a great success
- "March for Our Lives" – the students talked yesterday during advisory about THS and the national school walkout day on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Students will not be forced to participate but there will be speeches by students and it is believed students will do the walkout at 10AM and the school will participate in some of the national activities.
- A blood drive took place today at THS
- It was noted that students become frightened when there is a lockdown or a lock-in and they would like to know when it is a drill.
- During a lockdown or lock-in, students who are in the cafeteria are unsure as to where to go.
- A Birch Grove parent of a child who is on the spectrum expressed appreciation for Mr. Swanson.

G. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

G.1. Primary Mental Health Grant

Dr. Willett reviewed attachment G.1.

This grant is in the amount of \$20,000 and there is no cost to the District.

Mr. Schroeder motioned to move item G.1 to J.1 for action. Ms. Plourd seconded the motion. A discussion took place. Mr. Pagoni made an amendment to move items G.1 and G.4 to action item J.1 for one vote. Ms. Seaver seconded the motion. Mr. Schroeder was in agreement. Mr. Schroeder requested that Dr. Willett review item G.4, Perkins Innovative Grant, prior to voting on the motion.

Dr. Willett reviewed attachment G.4 including the financial summary and objectives of the grant. The grant amount is \$19,019.

All were in favor. Motion carried.

G.2. Shortening April break due to snow days

Dr. Willett reviewed attachment G.2 which included two possible courses of action.

Ms. Harrold inquired what the expense is if they take away spring break in regard to substitute teachers versus if the year-end is extended. Dr. Willett explained that vacations are often scheduled during both times and either way coverage would be needed. He added that the more conservative option is to address any lost days via the April break given State requirements.

A discussion took place regarding the options presented. In regard to the attendance policy, Dr. Willett explained that it applies to all school days for students but if days were taken from the April break, and a family had a pre-planned activity and made the school aware of it, such a situation would be taken into consideration regarding attendance.

Mr. Pagoni motioned to move item G.2 to item J.2 for action. Ms. Plourd seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

G.3. Safety and Security



Dr. Willett reviewed attachment G3.

Dr. Willett explained that there is no perfect answer when it comes to safety and security. He addressed some of the questions raised by the public and the student representatives. Dr. Willett explained that 83% of the drills were “exemplary” while 17% were “effective” so 100% were rated either exemplary or effective. Further, drills are not announced because everyone needs to take the exercises seriously. It prevents complacency, keeps everyone vigilant, and there are State regulations that need to be followed. The State legislature has made several efforts to give districts the opportunity to apply for grants for school security. In Tolland, grants have been received and investments have been made in safety and security and there continue to be possible bond dollars (2016 bond referendum) that would provide for work as well (see attachment). In response to an inquiry, the last safety and security meeting was on February 15<sup>th</sup> and is a constant and ongoing activity that has been going on for many years. Incidents such as the most recent one reinforce what the district has been doing. The district’s “All Hazards Plan” is updated annually for the State. Given its sensitive nature, it is not available to the public. Dr. Willett invited discussion.

Ms. Plourd expressed concern about the drills. Some students and staff have an element of fear and in some situations it can lead to alarm fatigue. Dr. Willett clarified that the State requires ten drills per school which include two during the first couple of weeks. In the current climate, he believes it probably results in more fear than fatigue. He added that many things can initiate a secure building/lockdown.

Mr. Pagoni noted that the district has two SROs that float among four schools so at all times there are two unprotected schools; in turn, they are understaffed in this regard. Dr. Willett explained that the SRO program in its current form is a collaboration with the Town. They were able to come up with an agreement to have the two SROs, and the school system asks them to rotate through the schools. The district has more coverage than it had in the past but he agrees. He added that it is not beneficial to have untrained staff in security positions. The current SROs are municipal police officers; formerly, the district had a single state trooper in the SRO position. Mr. Pagoni inquired about the cost for having two additional SRO positions. Dr. Willett explained the SROs work 27 hours each, some of which overlap, and this is at a cost of about 77k. A state trooper would be in the range of \$150K+ for one trooper. Dr. Willett explained that another two SROs would cost \$70K-80K and noted the positions need to be filled by the proper candidates or turnover could be high and in turn there would be a greater cost.

Ms. Goldsmith inquired if perhaps at TMS and THS they could have meetings or assemblies dedicated to teaching students how to identify potential threats and how to report them. Dr. Willett responded that he likes that students want to be active participants in the solution. He explained that the challenge is in identification. In popular culture and media the issues tend to be addressed with catch all terms such as “mental illness” and “disturbed”. The DSM V and other resources show there are multiple categories that could all fall under the category of mental illness. People’s perception tends to vary based on their individual experience. While we do, and will continue to discuss the need to report on things that don’t seem right, coming up with an exact profile is difficult and he does not want people to make inaccurate judgments regarding others

that leads to stigmatization. One common challenge is when someone is unhealthy, what is accessible to them. In many of the school shooting cases, individuals have had access to weapons with a fairly high rate of fire, and when coupled with even a weapon with medium range, there will be casualties. It is hard to close the distance quickly to stop them, and sometimes hard to see right away. The assumption that infrastructure alone will prevent it is a false perception, and misperceptions about a student with ticks, autism, or one who struggles when it comes to relating to others will be harmful too and could actually add to the problem if it makes some students outcasts, and if students who need help don't get the support. Dr. Willett fears people judging, and drawing conclusions about others, will hurt other children, the vast majority of which would never act against people violently. Some weapons, in conjunction with an unusually rare unhealthy person having access, make mass casualty a greater possibility.

Mr. Adlerstein inquired about the Financial Summary (attachment G.4) – specifically, the Remaining Bond Request. Dr. Willett confirmed that the Remaining Bond Request items are not yet in the district. Mr. Adlerstein asked what needs to be done to access those items and the process for prioritization. Dr. Willett explained some of the items are part of the bond that was approved at the referendum; the Town is the authority executes bonds. Ms. Moran noted that the Board has two upcoming joint meetings with the Town Council on March 6<sup>th</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>. Those would be good opportunities to bring this up as a public discussion.

In regard to Ms. Goldsmith's inquiry, Mr. Pagoni commented that there should be something in regard to "see/hear something, say something" so that students know to go to a teacher, principal, or an SRO with information. One person can make a difference and effect many lives. Dr. Willett agreed but cited the example of Parkland, FL. A lot of people said something. The problem is the availability of weapons that can kill so many so quickly, in the hands of unhealthy people. There are many people who say something and there are many threats but what is real and what is not is not simple and this is why these tragedies happen. The "say something" strategy has been used for years but there are still deaths. Mr. Pagoni commented that those in the community cannot solve the gun problems but perhaps they can prevent something from going wrong in the community because someone speaks up. Dr. Willett explained that indeed students do alert teachers and others when there is a concern just as they did in the Parkland, FL tragedy. Everyone collectively has to take action. Dr. Willett stated something that has a significant range and rate of fire cannot be negated fast enough to prevent some casualties, regardless of training. The distance between a person and someone who presents a certain way, at a certain time, with a weapon with a high rate of fire and range cannot be closed fast enough. Someone will die. The problem has to be dealt with by our culture, state, and country.

Ms. Plourd commented that this item is very politically charged. Guns aside, they need to protect the students. At the end of the day, students need to be kind. She added that the March 14<sup>th</sup> walkout is politically charged as well and inquired who would be with the students who choose to stay in school and if this event will be at other schools in the district besides THS. Ms. Harrold responded that the information is available in the digital backpack. Dr. Willett added that they received input from students who want to express themselves. On March 14<sup>th</sup>, students will have the opportunity to do so and that is the



point of the activities. It is important for the district to give students the chance to address it and or speak, appropriate to the developmental level. It is more dangerous to have students walk out without any safety measures. Students will be able to engage in an event and give their input. A meeting will be held on Friday with stakeholders to ensure the situation is managed in a controlled and safe manner.

Ms. Harrold commented that students can be in the most secure buildings possible but there needs to be resources to help kids who are so troubled that they do things such as school shootings. There needs to be a plan to help them and it has to be part of the discussion. Mr. Adlerstein noted that Strategic Prevention is a future agenda item that is applicable.

Dr. Willett explained that people have a tendency to lump all mental illness and use the term in a way that stigmatizes others. Our culture spends tens of millions in Connecticut alone on things like standardized testing but does not provide enough mental health services and resources. It needs to change. There need to be more resources dedicated to helping, and less careless stigmatization in popular culture and the media.

Ms. Pasini noted that the Superintendent's Breakfast on March 5<sup>th</sup> discussion will be on safety and security and questions will be answered in that venue as well. It will be held at the Board office at 51 Tolland Green (Board of Education Office) at 10AM.

#### G.4. Perkins Innovative Grant

See item G.1.

#### H. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Finance and Facilities – Shared services and upcoming transportation options were discussed.

CABE – Day on the Hill, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:30AM at the Bushnell

Communications – Possible surveys were discussed. Career Day will be held at TMS on Friday May 11<sup>th</sup>. The Booster Club met at THS on February 12<sup>th</sup> and held a staff appreciation session. Graduation and parent/teacher conferences were discussed as well. Further, the Booster Club now has 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. On Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> the TMS PTO meeting was held where they discussed end of year as well as other activities including the clothing drive and the Math Mindset. Ms. Harrold encouraged parents to attend PTO meetings and reminded everyone to sign up for Education Express at Big Y and noted the community is fortunate to have Big Y be so supportive of the schools.

Town Council – They met last night and the legislators spoke as they did at the Board's last meeting. Additionally, the Council has met with other towns to discuss shared services and hopes the joint meeting with the Board is successful. The police services study was also reviewed.

Shared Services – A meeting at EASTCONN is coming up to discuss what shared services may be available with other boards of education. The Committee is reviewing the history of what has been done and is looking at all avenues.

I. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Yudichak appointed Ms. Harrold, Mr. Schroeder, and Ms. Moran to the Negotiations Committee. Ms. Yudichak appointed Ms. Harrold as the Committee Chairperson.

Ms. Yudichak noted that there is a joint BOE/Town Council meeting scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup> and a follow up session scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup>. The meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup> will be in the Tolland Library's Program Room and the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting will be in Council Chambers.

Dr. Willett arranged for himself, Ms. Yudichak, Ms. Plourd, and Ms. Moran to attend tomorrow's session at EASTCONN to discuss shared services.

Ms. Yudichak recommended that the members start to think about goals for the Board.

J. BOARD ACTION

J.1. Primary Mental Health Grant and Perkins Innovative Grant

Mr. Schroeder motioned to accept the Primary Mental Health Grant and the Perkins Innovative Grant and authorize the Superintendent to complete the process of acquiring both grants. Ms. Harrold seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

J.2. Shortening April break due to snow days

Mr. Pagoni motioned to add school days to June 21, 2018 and June 22, 2018 and if they need to go past this they will start to take days from the end of the April vacation week (option a, attachment G.2). Discussion – days from the April vacation would be taken starting with Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Moran seconded the motion. Ms. Yudichak, Ms. Moran, Ms. Plourd, Mr. Schroder, Mr. Pagoni, Mr. Adlerstein, and Ms. Pasini were in favor. Ms. Seaver abstained. Motion carried.

K. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Liz Costa, 54 Josiah Lane, thanked Dr. Willett for putting together a socially responsible action plan for the students in all schools. She asked that students know about the offerings as she has seen on social media that many students think it is a walkout. This is a politically charged situation and there is not enough anyone in the room, Town, or State can do. People are fortunate to live in CT where some of the gun laws were strengthened after the Sandy Hook tragedy but it is not enough. While it is politically charged, students need to be informed to be able to help the legislators. Ms. Costa added that she is happy Dr. Willett does not share all of the information in regard to security and added that more can be done including equipment that does not cost much which is not on the list. She noted that the Parkland, FL students knew what to do because of the drills but they still got let down. The students said something. The only line of defense the Board has, short of barricading the schools, is to make the inside as safe as possible. Further, the students need to know what to do in the event of a lockdown when in the cafeteria. Students should be taught "see something say something" as well as the kindness piece. When someone gets in trouble, they need to be given the opportunity to improve. Lastly, she invited all to the March 24<sup>th</sup> event and the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The \$900K is not enough and it should be put on the Town Council agenda. She stated to Dr. Willett that nothing will stop an AR-15 in the hallway but they should lessen as many casualties as possible.

Kate Vallo, 80 Tolland Green, commented that a school counselor is needed at the primary school. In terms of thinking of resource development and being proactive to keep the student



body safe, it is known that developing community is one of the best ways to do this. Social and developmental growth is foundational for all later learning and one of the best opportunities to build community is when student are young. Ms. Vallo added that the Primary Mental Health grant is great and is often for students having adjustment problems in elementary school. The staff at Birch Grove does an amazing job and knows how to do this kind of work but she would like to see someone in the sole position of school counselor. Now is a good time to think about this for the next budget.

L. POINTS OF INFORMATION

(Town Council Meeting – February 13, 2018)

(Special Meeting – Town Council – February 15, 2018)

(Special Meeting – Town Council Subcommittee – February 20, 2018)

(Special Shared Services Meeting – February 21, 2018)

(Special Meeting Minutes – February 22, 2018)

Dr. Willett responded to the public comments. In areas such as the cafeteria, there are protocols and there are drills for open areas. The process is that students are told to make themselves as least conspicuous as possible, find cover under tables and behind other objects, and if there is a secure space and staff can do it with further endangering students, students should be taken to a more secure area. He explained that in an open area to some extent it needs to be left to one's common sense. Flexibility is needed for any situation and not everything can be prescribed. In safety and security meetings, many of the items noted have been discussed. He agreed with Ms. Costa and Ms. Vallo in regard to bringing in a school counselor to Birch Grove and this will be kept on the radar. Everyday Dr. Willett speaks with staff and students' and their welfare is always part of the conversation. In regard to climate, a committee is in place specifically to discuss this and how the district can be more responsive. A lot of work goes into the important endeavor of living up to community expectations. People can be proud of the District, the Town, and the State which makes grants available. Further, people can be proud of the staff and students who go through the drills and Dr. Willett believes they can do what is needed in any given situation. Everyone is doing their due diligence and he is available to discuss items further with anyone who would like to do so.

M. FUTURE

- Culturally responsive education (March)
- Strategic prevention partnership (April)
- Analysis and review of shared services

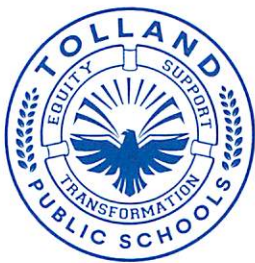
N. NEW BUSINESS - none

O. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Schroeder motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:22P.M. Ms. Harrold seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pascuzzi  
Clerk



## TOLLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

51 TOLLAND GREEN · TOLLAND, CONNECTICUT 06084  
860-870-6850 · FAX: 860-870-7737

OFFICE OF THE  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Walter Willett, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

**TO:** Board of Education

G.1

**FROM:** Mark S. McLaughlin, Business Director

**RE:** Monthly Financial Report for February 2018

**Date:** March 9, 2018

**CC:** Walter Willett, Ph.D. Superintendent of Schools

Please find attached the financial report for the month of February 2018, the 8<sup>th</sup> month of the 2017-2018 fiscal year. This report is a snapshot of the financial situation for FY17-18. This year's budget did not get approved until November 14, 2017 due to the financial crisis at the state level. The financial attachment is provided in an object format to clearly show the adopted budget and the expenditures against the budget YTD. The object line items follow the reporting format required by the State Dept. of Education. The line items show all expenses and encumbrances such as salaries, health insurance, utilities, tuition, transportation, textbooks, etc.

The attached February 2018 financial report shows an available balance of \$2,836,244 or 7.21% of the BOE's current budget. This includes encumbrances committed to vendors, collective bargaining agreements, contracts tuitions, etc. At this snapshot in time some line items are over budget, while some are under budget depending on encumbrances and timing of expenditures. Some line items cannot be encumbered such as substitutes, course reimbursement unemployment compensation and severance. As part of the UISF agreement the BOE has transferred the designated energy budget to the town. The town pays the invoices based on the BOE funding and any residual balance that remains in the form of cost savings will remain in the UISF reserve account.

In a typical year the budget is built 18-20 months from implementation based on the best know assumptions from the town, state of Ct, interest rates, market conditions, contacts, negotiations, Department of Ed. Mandates, etc.

This year's Budget, FY17-18 was approved for \$39,333,948. As a result of strong oversight and management, the BOE is closely monitoring spending. The BOE is anticipating to spend the allocated budget by year end in accordance with CGS 10-222. Any balances as in the past may be returned to the town or the BOE can request it be transferred to the 1% fund upon final approval by the auditors. In February the district received \$702,561 in the first excess cost payment from the state. The second payment is due in May.



# Tolland Public Schools

## MM OBJ A Expenditure Report Summary (by OBJ - ???)

From Date: 2/1/2018

To Date: 2/28/2018

Fiscal Year: 2017-2018

☐ Subtotal by Collapse Mask

☒ Include pre encumbrance

☐ Print accounts with zero balance

☒ Filter Encumbrance Detail by Date Range

☐ Exclude Inactive Accounts with zero balance

Account Number	Description	GL Budget	Range To Date	YTD	Balance	Encumbrance	Budget Balance	% Bud
0100.0000.110.00.000.1	Salaries	\$20,442,873.11	\$1,582,742.96	\$11,422,384.61	\$9,020,488.50	\$8,518,308.66	\$502,179.84	2.46%
0100.0000.120.00.000.1	Substitutes	\$471,941.00	\$26,057.74	\$171,584.08	\$300,356.92	\$15,528.40	\$284,828.52	60.35%
0100.0000.130.00.000.1	Overtime	\$164,166.00	\$8,653.66	\$112,137.49	\$52,028.51	\$6,720.79	\$45,307.72	27.60%
0100.0000.150.00.000.1	Stipends	\$337,840.00	\$19,194.09	\$125,696.64	\$212,143.36	\$323,758.75	(\$111,615.39)	-33.04%
0100.0000.190.00.000.1	Pension/Severance	\$156,390.00	\$6,180.00	\$27,493.23	\$128,896.77	\$3,476.00	\$125,420.77	80.20%
0100.0000.200.00.000.1	Employee Benefits	\$608,124.00	\$1,250.00	\$591,886.08	\$16,237.92	\$3,750.00	\$12,487.92	2.05%
0100.0000.210.00.000.1	Health/Life/Disabl Ins	\$5,411,140.89	\$525,308.40	\$3,496,948.08	\$1,914,192.81	\$1,763,961.81	\$150,231.00	2.78%
0100.0000.220.00.000.1	FICA/MED/Soc Sec	\$649,669.00	\$43,746.26	\$320,795.86	\$328,873.14	\$211,788.17	\$117,084.97	18.02%
0100.0000.240.00.000.1	Retirement (ICMA)	\$238,950.00	\$18,026.56	\$135,202.40	\$103,747.60	\$83,341.76	\$20,405.84	8.54%
0100.0000.250.00.000.1	Course Reimbursement-Degree Ch	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	100.00%
0100.0000.260.00.000.1	Unemployment Compensation	\$56,681.00	\$6,371.84	\$31,075.84	\$25,605.16	\$3,924.16	\$21,681.00	38.25%
0100.0000.270.00.000.1	Workers' Compensation	\$283,612.00	\$0.00	\$208,839.00	\$74,773.00	\$69,613.00	\$5,160.00	1.82%
0100.0000.300.00.000.1	Purch Prof & Tech Svcs	\$66,232.00	\$330.00	\$13,236.99	\$52,995.01	\$500.00	\$52,495.01	79.26%
0100.0000.310.00.000.1	Benefits Consultant Services	\$50,750.00	\$0.00	\$21,384.96	\$29,365.04	\$21,384.96	\$7,980.08	15.72%
0100.0000.320.00.000.1	Prof Educ Svcs	\$392,505.00	\$40,872.32	\$108,099.16	\$284,405.84	\$36,841.48	\$247,564.36	63.07%
0100.0000.330.00.000.1	Professional Tech Svcs	\$29,482.00	\$582.05	\$16,941.41	\$12,540.59	\$10,910.20	\$1,630.39	5.53%
0100.0000.340.00.000.1	Legal/Audit/Consult Svcs	\$219,087.00	\$2,783.61	\$94,529.43	\$124,557.57	\$41,263.07	\$83,294.50	38.02%
0100.0000.350.00.000.1	Tech Services	\$445,757.00	\$12,319.39	\$219,032.55	\$226,724.45	\$60,619.13	\$166,105.32	37.26%
0100.0000.410.00.000.1	Sewer/Water	\$29,501.00	\$0.00	\$29,501.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
0100.0000.420.00.000.1	Cleaning/Rubbish Services	\$126,420.00	\$5,796.12	\$51,453.71	\$74,966.29	\$17,895.73	\$57,070.56	45.14%
0100.0000.430.00.000.1	Repair and Maint Servs (Facili	\$261,962.00	\$18,862.29	\$78,886.84	\$183,075.16	\$85,444.09	\$97,631.07	37.27%
0100.0000.440.00.000.1	Rentals	\$148,552.00	\$10,497.91	\$84,377.93	\$64,174.07	\$76,992.41	(\$12,818.34)	-8.63%
0100.0000.510.00.000.1	Student Transp Svcs	\$2,551,582.00	\$82,612.39	\$1,143,487.08	\$1,408,094.92	\$1,299,632.70	\$108,462.22	4.25%
0100.0000.520.00.000.1	Property/Liability Insurance	\$190,160.00	\$0.00	\$153,251.71	\$36,908.29	\$44,510.00	(\$7,601.71)	-4.00%
0100.0000.530.00.000.1	Telephone/ Postage	\$52,542.00	\$2,839.75	\$29,604.49	\$22,937.51	\$13,090.82	\$9,846.69	18.74%
0100.0000.540.00.000.1	Advertising	\$4,565.00	\$0.00	\$1,223.85	\$3,341.15	\$841.15	\$2,500.00	54.76%
0100.0000.550.00.000.1	Printing and Binding	\$28,052.00	\$437.85	\$2,941.08	\$25,110.92	\$14,518.17	\$10,592.75	37.76%
0100.0000.560.00.000.1	Tuition Educ Agency	\$2,947,347.00	(\$64,744.20)	\$1,560,270.23	\$1,387,076.77	\$920,625.48	\$466,451.29	15.83%
0100.0000.580.00.000.1	Travel and Conference	\$37,731.00	\$708.54	\$8,665.30	\$29,065.70	\$5,483.94	\$23,581.76	62.50%
0100.0000.590.00.000.1	Public Officers & State Troope	\$86,322.00	\$6,506.95	\$42,698.37	\$43,623.63	\$33,651.48	\$9,972.15	11.55%
0100.0000.600.00.000.1	General Supplies	\$211,080.00	\$11,244.55	\$51,901.25	\$159,178.75	\$47,669.50	\$111,509.25	52.83%
0100.0000.610.00.000.1	Instr Supplies/Mat'ls	\$392,106.00	\$16,599.27	\$64,302.21	\$327,803.79	\$192,776.55	\$135,027.24	34.44%
0100.0000.620.00.000.1	Energy	\$1,641,399.00	\$30,057.03	\$1,523,725.67	\$117,673.33	\$113,345.33	\$4,328.00	0.26%
0100.0000.640.00.000.1	Textbooks	\$220,628.00	\$1,207.23	\$12,109.15	\$208,518.85	\$181,905.93	\$26,612.92	12.06%
0100.0000.650.00.000.1	Films and Videos Supl	\$650.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$650.00	\$549.94	\$100.06	15.39%
0100.0000.660.00.000.1	Computer Software	\$42,621.00	\$145.00	\$43,286.98	(\$665.98)	\$83,924.94	(\$84,590.92)	-198.47%
0100.0000.690.00.000.1	Misc Supplies	\$59,906.00	\$4,982.04	\$16,750.38	\$43,155.62	\$27,297.38	\$15,858.24	26.47%
0100.0000.730.00.000.1	Equip Instruct - New	\$170,586.00	\$3,971.62	\$13,442.82	\$157,143.18	\$76,357.33	\$80,785.85	47.36%
0100.0000.760.00.000.1	Equip - Spec Ed - Instr - New	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	100.00%
0100.0000.810.00.000.1	Dues and Fees	\$53,036.00	\$772.99	\$49,156.93	\$3,879.07	\$7,195.09	(\$3,316.02)	-6.25%
<b>Grand Total:</b>		<b>\$39,333,948.00</b>	<b>\$2,426,916.21</b>	<b>\$22,078,304.79</b>	<b>\$17,255,643.21</b>	<b>\$14,419,398.30</b>	<b>\$2,836,244.91</b>	<b>7.21%</b>

End of Report

**SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND**

**ITEM:** 2018-2019 School Calendar

**ITEM SUBMITTED BY:** Walter Willett, Ph.D., Superintendent

**FOR BOE MEETING:** March 14, 2018

**ITEM SUMMARY:**

Please see the Tolland Public School 2018-2019 calendar. The calendar provides for 11 Early Release days for professional development, curriculum, and organizational time for teachers and paraprofessionals. Early release days are useful for training and professional activities without having to acquire substitute teachers to cover classes, thereby keeping this expenditure lower. The ER days are organized on Fridays so as to be helpful to families.

A significant portion of professional development is front-loaded in the beginning of the school year before classes begin. Training implemented in the beginning of the year is crucial for phonics programs (such as Foundations) administrative programs (such as Power School products) and overall allows for a better opportunity to apply information and skills learned over the scope of the entire year, vs. having a workshop mid-year or later that could have provided information that would have been useful earlier in the year (for example, a program on Autism teachers could utilize the knowledge from right away). In addition, this practice is in accordance with Article 7, Section B of the Teacher Contract:

*Four (4) days, and 5 hours and 15 minutes will be used for professional development prior to the start of the student school year. The Board agrees to provide one (1) full day and two hours in the afternoon of one of the days before students return, of uninterrupted teacher work-time/classroom preparation time.*

The Regional calendar was reviewed and vacations were, as is required, aligned with the EASTCONN calendar. Tolland is a member of the EASTCONN Region or RESC (Regional Education Service Center) and must adhere to the regional calendar in accordance with CGS 10-66q.

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY:**

N/A

**BOARD ATTORNEY REVIEW:**

N/A

**BOE ACTION DESIRED:**

1<sup>st</sup> reading:

When ready:

- 1) Move to Action (J item)
- 2) *Motion to accept the Tolland Public School 2017-2018 Calendar.*

**SUPPORTING MATERIALS ATTACHED:**

2018 – 2019 Draft Tolland Public School School Calendar



# Tolland Public Schools

Dr. Walter Willett, Superintendent



Tolland High School  
Tolland Middle School

Tolland Intermediate School  
Birch Grove Primary School

Total Student Days: 181

Total Faculty Days: 188

## School Calendar 2018-2019

August/September					Important Dates					February				
M	T	W	Th	F						M	T	W	Th	F
20	21	22	23	24	Aug 22-28 Faculty In-Service					4	5	6	7	8
27	28	29	30	31	Aug 29 First Day of School					11	12	13	14	15
NS	4	5	6	7	Sep 3 (NS).....Labor Day					NS	19	20	21	ER
10	11	12	13	14	Oct 8 (NS).....Columbus Day					25	26	27	28	
17	18	19	20	21	Oct 9 (NS).....Faculty In-Service					(19 days)				
24	25	26	27	28	Oct 26 (ER).....Faculty In-Service									
(22 days)					Nov 1 (ER).....K-12 Conferences									
October										March				
M	T	W	Th	F						M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5	Nov 2.....K-8 Conferences					4	5	6	PTC-ER	1
NS	NS	10	11	12	Nov 2.....K-8 No School					11	12	13	14	15
15	16	17	18	19	Nov 21-23 (NS).....Thanksgiving Break					18	19	20	21	ER
22	23	24	25	ER	Dec 7 (ER).....Faculty In-Service					25	26	27	28	29
29	30	31			Dec 21 (ER).....Winter Break					(21 days)				
(21 days)					Dec 24- Jan. 1 (NS).....Winter Break									
November										April				
M	T	W	Th	F						M	T	W	Th	F
5	6	7	PTC-ER	PTC★	Jan 11 (ER).....Faculty In-Service					1	2	3	4	ER
12	13	14	15	16	Jan 21 (NS).....Martin Luther King Jr Day					8	9	10	11	12
19	20	21	22	23	Jan 22 ★.....THS Mid-Semester Day					15	16	17	18	19
26	27	28	29	30	Jan 22.....THS No School (Tentative)					22	23	24	25	ER
(19 days 9-12)					Jan 22.....K-8 Full Student Day					29	30			
(18 days K-8)					Jan 23 ★.....THS 1st Day 2nd Semester					(17 days)				
December										May				
M	T	W	Th	F						M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	ER	Feb 1 (ER).....Faculty In-Service					6	7	8	9	ER
10	11	12	13	14	Feb 18 (NS).....President's Day					13	14	15	16	17
17	18	19	20	ER	Feb 22 (ER).....Faculty In-Service					20	21	22	23	24
24	25	26	27	28	Mar 7-8 (ER).....K-12 Conferences					NS	28	29	30	31
31					If the March 7 &/or 8 PTC are postponed they will be held on March 14 &/or 15.					(22 days)				
(15 days)					Mar 22 (ER).....Faculty In-Service									
January										June				
M	T	W	Th	F						M	T	W	Th	F
7	NS	2	3	4	Apr 5 (ER).....Faculty In-Service					3	4	5	6	ER
14	8	9	10	ER	Apr 15-18 (NS).....Spring Break					10*	11*	12*	13*	14*
NS	15	16	17	18	Apr 19 (NS).....Contractual Holiday					17*	18*	19*	20*	21*
22	★	23	★	24	April 26 (ER).....Faculty In-Service					24*	25*	26*	27*	28*
28	29	30	31		May 10 (ER).....Faculty In-Service					(5 days)				
(20 days 9-12)					May 27 (NS).....Memorial Day									
(21 days K-8)					June 7 (ER) Last Day of School									
					★ Dates are TENTATIVE as they may change if snow/ emergency days occur during the first semester.									
					ER Early Release									
					THS 7:15- 10:45 a.m.									
					TMS 8:00- 11:45 a.m.									
					BGP/ TIS 8:50- 12:45 p.m.									
					No School = NS									
					PTC= Parent/ Teacher Conferences									
					*Snow/ Emergency Day Make Up (as needed through June 30)									

- The last day of school is scheduled for Friday, June 7, 2019. Please note, where possible, snow or emergency days will first be made up through June days. If, however, such snow or emergency days push the last day of school potentially into the last week of June, days may need to be taken from April or other vacations as needed. According to Connecticut General Statute 10-15 and 10-259 the school year must be at least 180 days and cannot extend past the last day of June. The school calendar is posted on the Tolland Public Schools website at <http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us>

DRAFT

**SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND**

**ITEM:** Contribution

**ITEM SUBMITTED BY:** Walter Willett, Ph.D., Superintendent

**FOR BOE MEETING:** March 14, 2018

**ITEM SUMMARY:** Donation

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY:**

A private donation has been made to the Tolland Public Schools of two hundred thousand dollars. The funds are to be utilized to assist struggling learners through the development of academic assistance programs. Examples would be student learning support in current academy, after-school, and specially created and personalized programs for students who are struggling. The donor has wished to remain anonymous. Options for maximizing the financial longevity and return on the donation are currently being explored.

**BOARD ATTORNEY REVIEW:**

CGS 10-237(c) school districts may receive "any donation or gift of personal property to be used for the educational benefit of students" and such funds may be maintained (or carried over from year to year) in a school activity fund.

Receipt of the donation is in accordance with Policy and Regulation 3050.

**BOE ACTION DESIRED:**

There are no restrictions or requirements that would bring unanticipated costs to the district. The donation will not result in any actions harmful to the best educational interests of students. It will not endorse any business or product or result in a conflict or violation with school code or law.

**SUPPORTING MATERIALS ATTACHED:**

None.



Agenda Item #G4  
**SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND**

**ITEM:** MBR FY 2018 and FY 2019

**ITEM SUBMITTED BY:** Walter Willett, Ph.D., Superintendent

**FOR BOE MEETING:** March 14, 2018

**ITEM SUMMARY:**

Please note, the following analysis regarding the MBR for Tolland for the 2018-2019 fiscal year does **not** take into consideration the effect of an increase or decrease in Tolland's ECS grant from the state. Section 10-262j restricts a town's ability to reduce its appropriation for education from fiscal year to fiscal year. This restriction, which is intended to ensure a stable source of educational funding for school districts, is commonly referred to as the Minimum Budget Requirement ("MBR").

The MBR states that, as a general rule\*, a town or municipality's budgeted appropriation for education for any fiscal year must not be less than the budgeted appropriation for education during the prior fiscal year. The MBR also prohibits town from using state aid to supplant local education funding. Accordingly, as a general rule, whenever a town receives a year-over-year increase in state aid, its overall budget must, as a general rule, increase by an amount commensurate with the increase in state aid.

Notably, the MBR concerns educational appropriations, not educational spending. A town that makes an appropriation that is at least commensurate with the MBR will have complied with Section 10-262j, regardless of whether the board of education actually spends the full amount appropriated. Towns violating the MBR are subject to a statutory penalty. The penalty is a deduction in "an amount equal to two times the amount of the shortfall" from the town or municipality's Education Cost Sharing grant during the second fiscal year following the failure to meet the MBR (i.e., for every dollar that the town underfunds the school district, the State imposes a penalty of two dollars).

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY:**

\*In the case of Tolland, a slight downward student enrollment occurred between October 1, 2016 and October 1, 2017. According to the most recent version of Section 10-262j, a town whose school district has experienced an enrollment decline may reduce its educational appropriation by an amount equal to the product of the total student decline and one-half of the district's per pupil expenditures (i.e., [total number of resident students in year one - total number of resident students in year two] \* [per pupil expenditure level \* .50]=available reduction).

The District's resident student population dropped by 19 students during the relevant one year period. The per pupil expenditure amount in Tolland is \$15,223, therefore the Town would be able to reduce its educational spending by approximately \$144,618 for fiscal year 2018-2019. Such reductions are subject to a statutory cap, based on a relative measure of wealth. In Districts in which less than twenty percent of student qualify for free or reduced price school lunch, as in Tolland, the cap is set at three percent of the total appropriation.

Tolland should, however, be mindful of other restrictions on cutting certain costs. Most notable among these restrictions is the requirement in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (the "IDEA") that a board of education's aggregate budgeted expenditures (from both state and local funds) and/or per pupil expenditure for students with disabilities remain at least consistent from year to year. See 34 C.F.R. 300.203(c)(1). In other words, as a general rule, the Board must at least maintain its level of spending on special education, in the aggregate or on a per-pupil level, from year to year. Should both the aggregate and per-pupil expenditures decrease from one fiscal year to the next, the district will be cited for violating the maintenance of effort ("MOE") requirement of the IDEA. Some narrow exceptions apply to this general rule. The MOE rules also prohibit the Board from using federal special education grant funding to supplant state or local special education spending. If found to be in violation of these rules, the Board would be required to return to the federal government an amount equal to the shortfall or the amount of the board's IDEA Part B subgrant during the fiscal year in question, whichever is lower. 34 CFR 300.203(d).

**BOARD ATTORNEY REVIEW:**

Attorney consulted on MBR considerations.

**BOE ACTION DESIRED:**

Review.

**SUPPORTING MATERIALS ATTACHED:**

None.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND**

**ITEM:** POCD (Planning and Conservation Development) Information Request

**ITEM SUBMITTED BY:** Walter Willett, Ph.D., Superintendent

**For BOE meeting:** March 14, 2018

**ITEM SUMMARY:**

A request has been made of the Board of Education to provide feedback to the Director of Planning and Development. Over the next 18 months, the Planning and Zoning Commission will be updating the "Plan of Conservation and Development" (POCD). The POCD sets forth a plan for conserving features and resources of value and for identifying appropriate development locations and patterns. Tolland's earliest plan dates back to 1964 and the most recent was adopted in 2009, with revisions in 2011. The current POCD outlines policies and actions for natural resource protection, "character", open space, farmland, housing, economic development, transportation, utilities and community facilities.

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY:**

N/A

**BOARD ATTORNEY REVIEW:**

N/A

**BOE ACTION DESIRED:**

Discussion as to how the Board would like to provide feedback. One option is a shared Google document through which the BOE members can brainstorm, and from which the Superintendent can create a "final" document for BOE approval to forward to Ms. Samokar. This document is due by April 12, 2018. Therefore the BOE members would need to contribute information into the Google document up until March 21st. The information would be summarized and provided to the BOE for review at the March 28<sup>th</sup> BOE meeting. Upon approval, the document would be forwarded to Ms. Samokar.

**SUPPORTING MATERIALS ATTACHED:**

Memo from Heidi Samokar: Initial Input, Update of Plan of Conservation and Development

Tolland Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) – 2019 update





TOWN of TOLLAND/ 21 Tolland Green, Tolland, Connecticut 06084

MEMO

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**TO:** Board of Education

**FROM:** Heidi Samokar, AICP, Director of Planning & Development

**DATE:** February 28, 2018

**RE:** Initial Input, Update of Plan of Conservation and Development

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Over the next 18 months, the Planning and Zoning Commission will be updating the "Plan of Conservation and Development" (POCD). The POCD sets forth a plan for conserving features and resources of value and for identifying appropriate development locations and patterns. Tolland's earliest plan dates back to 1964 and the most recent was adopted in 2009, with revisions in 2011. The current POCD outlines policies and actions for natural resource protection, "character", open space, farmland, housing, economic development, transportation, utilities and community facilities.

We are reaching out to a number of boards and commissions to gather **initial thoughts**. We ask you to do two things:

1. Review those sections of the current POCD that fall under your board's / commission's purview. The current plan is found at: <https://www.tolland.org/planning-development/pages/planning>. Pages relevant to **education** include:
  - a. Chapter 6, pages 71-74
  - b. Chapter 6 pages 76-77 (regarding use of fields)
  - c. Chapter 6, page 79
  - d. Chapter 6, pages 83-85 regarding walking and biking to schools
  - e. Chapter 8, page 108

2. Fill out the attached questionnaire as a group (i.e., one form per board or commission) and submit to me by April 12. I will then share each one with the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Please keep in mind that there will be many opportunities over the next 18 months to provide more input and delve deeper into these issues. For now, we want to collect your initial thoughts and ideas. Also, while the POCD mainly focuses on land use, development and conservation, feel free to convey any information or ideas that you think the Planning and Zoning Commission should consider.

Your responses are public. If you have any questions, please contact me at 860-871-3601 or [hsamokar@tolland.org](mailto:hsamokar@tolland.org).

Tolland Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) - 2019 Update

**Board or Commission:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In reviewing the parts of the plan relevant to your board / commission, which issues are still relevant today?**

**What new issues within your purview have emerged that should be addressed?**

**What trends in the next 5 to 10 years will impact this topic area?**

**Other suggestions or recommendations of issues to address in the updated POCD?**

*Please attach additional pages if necessary. Return to [hsamokar@tolland.org](mailto:hsamokar@tolland.org). Please note your responses will be public information that is shared with the Commission.*



## MEETING MINUTES

### TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL HICKS MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER 6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR COUNCIL ROOM FEBRUARY 27, 2018 – 7:00 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** William Eccles, Chair; David Skoczulek, Vice-Chair; Brenda Falusi; Tammy Nuccio; John Reagan; Paul Reynolds and Christine Vincent

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steven Werbner, Town Manager; Lisa Hancock, Director of Finance and Records; Beverly Bellody, Human Services; Christopher Jordan, Assistant Finance Director; Scott Lappen, Public Works; Tony Guglielmo; Sam Belsito; Tim Ackert; Daniel Giungi, CCM

1. **CALL TO ORDER** William Eccles called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited.
3. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Observed
4. **PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:** None.
5. **PUBLIC PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** *(on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council) (2 minute limit):* None.
6. **PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:**
  - 6.1 Consideration of a resolution to amend Chapter 118 Property Maintenance, Section 118-3 Definitions, of the Code of the Town of Tolland.

Mr. Werbner said the Blight Review Committee currently has 3 members. They feel with 5 members they would have an easier time of getting a quorum.

David Skoczulek moved to open the public hearing; Seconded by Christine Vincent. All in favor. None opposed.

David Skoczulek moved to close the public hearing; Seconded by Tammy Nuccio. All in favor. None opposed.

David Skoczulek motioned to accept the following resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council hereby amends Chapter 118, Section 118-3 Definitions of the Code of the Town of Tolland.

The amended definition is effective April 1, 2018.

Seconded by Christine Vincent. All in favor. None opposed.

7a. **REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE TO THE COUNCIL:** None.

7b. **REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL LIAISONS:** Paul Reynolds, TWC: They have put the water tank project on hold to investigate the foundation to make sure there are no issues with the concrete; the new rates have

been issued as of the first of the year; and 16 items remain open for the leak detection work. They are waiting for the weather to clear. **Bill Eccles, WPCA:** They discussed the use of bioxide for odor control. **John Reagan, BOE:** The State Senator and two State Reps attended the meeting. They spoke about the big fiscal problems in the state. The BOE did vote on their budget and passed a .78 increase with a 6 to 3 vote. **Tammy Nuccio, BOE:** She reiterated that the BOE had discussion on the budget, and voiced her areas of concern. **Brenda Falusi, PZC:** They went into Executive Session to interview the Consultant for the POCD; they talked about farm, wineries and breweries; they received updates on the quarry, the site plan for VCS and the work for Old Cathole Road.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):

- 8.1 Discussion of legislative priorities with Tony Guglielmo (State Senator), Sam Belsito (State Representative), Tim Ackert (State Representative), ~~Randy Collins (CCM)~~ and Daniel Giungi (CCM).

Tim Ackert reviewed the numbers. The Governor's proposal that they just received came in at 8.686. This is the Educational Cost Sharing formula that was presented to them recently. This is his proposal, the Legislature builds the budget. Given it is early in this session, the committees are meeting and the pieces are getting put together.

Mr. Belsito said there is one significant Bill: HB5171: It will prevent the Governor from making mid-year recessions to ECS funding. Mr. Giungi spoke about the hearing to support HB5171, and the Governor's holdbacks. Mr. Belsito went on to say that this State is broke. They are coming to towns and cities that have done well. He is coming to take that money and he will bring us to our knees. Tolland will be using their reserve.

Mr. Guglielmo said they are going to fight, and that the state is in a tail spin. Looking at the numbers, people are fleeing Connecticut. Sure, they can raise taxes, but more people will leave. In 2015/2016, Connecticut lost 7,900 people to Florida. He commented that he thought certain people would run for Governor, but they are not. Why would they? How would they fix this problem? He said Connecticut didn't get in this position because it lost an industry, we did this to ourselves. They are going to focus on the towns that did what they were supposed to do. They built up their fund balance, and they are going to take it.

Mr. Eccles asked what they are doing on the expenditure side. Ms. Nuccio mentioned the \$10m soccer field and the renovations to the XL Center. Mr. Guglielmo said it is incredible to him that this still is going on. He thought that was going to stop a long time ago, but it hasn't. It may have slowed down, but it hasn't stopped. Mr. Ackert said they have been investing wrong. They make the cuts where it hits the most vulnerable. Connecticut needs to re-invent itself. Put our dollars where they go further. There will be discussion on revenue (tolls, etc.). They need to find a way to do things better and cheaper.

Mr. Werbner said CCM has put out some suggestions. Why can't they look at the unfunded mandates? (prevailing wage, minority set-asides). Mr. Ackert said it's not the political will in Hartford. They need to get the fiscal house in order. Mr. Werbner said we are going to be in the same situation this year with budget planning.

Council members had concern regarding the town's budget schedule not matching up with the State's. Mr. Belsito said in his opinion, Tolland is going to get significantly hurt. With the way the Governor has acted in the past and the way he acted last year, it is going to happen. Mr. Werbner said there could be bipartisan efforts. Mr. Ackert said people are worried about November.

Mr. Belsito said there is a lot of discussion regarding regionalization. Mr. Eccles said Tolland is already discussing this, but they need to get the State out of the way or it's not going to happen. Ms. Nuccio said the unfunded mandates are killing us. The mandates at the educational level are killing us. She said they need to be looked at, and they need to start cutting them. She said if they are not going to fund them, they can't keep telling us what to do. Tolland needs mandate relief. Mr. Belsito said he will try to get Ms. Nuccio a listing of the unfunded mandates.



Mr. Werbner brought up the crumbling foundation problem. He said he knows the formation of the Captive insurance program is moving along, but 'the problem' is also moving along. Through the Department of Housing, Tolland has \$50,000 of program income to use for testing purposes. We have been waiting for this since last October. He knows that they appointed a crumbling foundation advocate to try to move these things along, but Tolland is still waiting for \$50,000 to help its residents. It is important that we keep the feet to fire, because we are losing \$350,000+ in tax money. If it doesn't get some movement forward, it is just going to snowball. Mr. Guglielmo gave an update on Captive.

## 8.2 Discussion of Shared Services Meeting held on February 15, 2018.

Mr. Werbner read his Item Summary:

**ITEM SUMMARY:** On February 15, 2018 Tolland hosted a Shared Services Meeting with other Towns in close proximity to review opportunities for regional initiatives. The following Towns were represented: Bolton, Columbia, Coventry, East Granby, Ellington, Granby, Mansfield, Somers, South Windsor, Stafford, Suffield, Vernon and Willington. Following a short presentation by CRCOG staff the Towns brainstormed ideas for possible future service sharing concepts.

The following are areas of interest that were mentioned by the Towns as areas of need. For organizational purposes, subcommittees were formed at the end of the meeting for the following areas: Fire/Animal Control, Police, Public Works and Town/HR/Back Office.

### **Public Works (Rick Zulick: Stafford)**

- Transfer Station: Coventry and Stafford both have transfer stations; Tolland and Mansfield are interesting in having a transfer station nearby. Stafford's is underutilized. Location of the station may be an issue for residents.
- Public Works Equipment Sharing
- Public Works: simple as purchasing road signs together

### **Police (Steve Werbner: Tolland)**

- Police Services: Tolland, Mansfield and Bolton are currently Resident Trooper Towns and are considering going to contracting services instead of remaining Resident Trooper Towns.

### **Fire/Animal Control (John Elsesser: Coventry)**

- Animal Control was an area mentioned by a number of Towns.
- Regional Fire Marshal Services: with blight enforcement and uniform relocation act, instead of individual Towns having a part time Fire Marshal, several Towns having one full time Fire Marshal may make more sense.
- Fire Equipment: requirement for new hoods that are more costly. Looking to leverage a number of Towns to obtain a greater discount.

### **Town/Back Office / HR (Joyce Stille: Bolton)**

- Human Resources: needed: Stafford, Willington, Bolton and Coventry. Towns that have HR: Vernon, Tolland and Mansfield
- Assessor: some towns have part-time assessors who are not as accessible as they should be (for example, Bolton has an assessor who is only present a few hours a week because they have a full-time job in another town).
- Building Inspection / Official and Regional Code Enforcement
- Regional Assessment: most Towns use vision appraisal
- Cyber-Security / Protection and Training
- Grant Writing

Meetings will be set up in coming weeks to further discuss the areas of interest. Other Towns not at the meeting with an interest in Service Sharing will be encouraged to join in on the discussion. A suggestion will be made to CRCOG to have Towns adopt a "Service Sharing First" policy which would include making the region aware of any significant hiring's to take place, projects to be pursued, equipment to be purchased and services to be adjusted prior to taking action to allow for any possible discussions on alternate means or methods for achieving the same result at a lesser cost.



He said it seemed like a positive meeting, and he hopes that they will be able to take some steps to move forward with this.

Mr. Eccles said he is looking forward to see what can come out of the groups. Mr. Skoczulek said the discussion was lively. He is glad that Tolland is at the forefront of this.

### 8.3 Consideration and action on approving 2017-2019 Town Council Goals.

Mr. Eccles said the Goal Sub-Committee met. The meeting was well organized and run by Brenda Falusi. Ms. Falusi reported on the meeting. This is the listing they came up with:

1. Achieve cost savings and operational efficiencies by sharing additional services among Board of Education and Town departments, and by identifying cost savings and cost avoidance measures.
2. Achieve cost savings and operational efficiencies by sharing additional services with neighboring towns, and by identifying cost savings and cost avoidance measures.
3. Bring several key initiatives to successful resolution including the Charter Revision process, police services, Plan of Conservation and Development, Public Works garage, Town Manager search and Parker School Senior Housing.
4. Implement an economic development strategy for Tolland including the Tolland Village Area, the Technology Campus Zone and the Commercial Industrial Zone.
5. Continue to foster a collaborative environment with other boards and commissions.
6. Identify budget contingency plans for unexpected changes in revenue.
7. Continue to actively engage with legislative delegation to advocate for Tolland residents and businesses.
8. Identify mechanisms to work with civic organizations to achieve Town goals through volunteer efforts.
9. Enhance communications with residents.
10. Advocate for public policy in support of residents with crumbling foundations.
11. Manage our debt service in such a way that the Town has the ability to pay as we go as an option.

Mr. Eccles said these are our goals, but how these are executed will not be discussed tonight. If someone is interested in an item, then that person can help out with that item. Mr. Reagan said he would like to spend some time discussing each goal and seeing where they can go with it. He would also like to review it regularly. Mr. Eccles said he thinks addressing these quarterly would be appropriate. Ms. Nuccio said some of the goals are already being worked on. Mr. Werbner agreed and commented that the town staff also works on these. He asked that if anyone needs dollars for any of these, that they let him know soon.

Mr. Eccles asked if the Council members were all in agreement with these goals, and they were.

David Skoczulek motioned to accept the following resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tolland Town Council that it hereby approves the attached Town Council goals for the term 2017-2019.

Seconded by Brenda Falusi. All in favor. None opposed.

8.4 Appointments to vacancies on various municipal boards/commissions.

David Skoczulek motioned to appoint the following:

8.4.a. Re-Appointment to Tolland Economic & Community Development Corp.

Robert Ciraco, 142 Old Stafford Road, term 02/28/18 – 02/28/23

Seconded by Christine Vincent.

All in favor. None opposed.

8.5 Discussion of Police Services Study and Presentation.

Mr. Eccles said a presentation was given last Thursday on the study. Mr. Reagan thinks they should go back to 4 resident troopers with no Sergeant. We can use Troop C's Sergeant. Mr. Skoczulek said he feels Tolland is under policed compared to other towns. The benefit of having Troop C in town is very high. He would like to see further data. The data provided was not a lot. Mr. Reynolds appreciated the options outlined at the meeting last week. His goal is to get into a more regionalized concept, but for now, he thinks they stay with the Resident Trooper Program and add to it. Ms. Vincent did not attend the meeting, but would like to go with Option #1 as listed in the study. Mr. Reagan commented that he would like to have the Troopers attend a future meeting to get their input. Ms. Nuccio said she spoke with the trooper after the meeting. He said that the work he is doing now is reactionary. He can't be proactive. She said she goes back and forth between having constables and staying with the troopers. It is important to note that with constables, the town will need to pick up the liability. Ms. Falusi came up with a list of items that would be proactive, some included: community service programs, digital information being shared and addressed, how to address speeding, how to make residents break-in proof, drug awareness, internet safety, etc. She would like to see more presence with the troopers. Mr. Eccles said what came across to him was the word 'presence'. Yes, they are doing what they are doing, but people are not seeing them enough. Tolland hired the consultant to help make this decision, and they said we are not staffed enough. Whatever we do this year, will have an effect on us next year. He would like to have further discussion with the troopers regarding their visibility, and he suggests that the resident troopers have decals on their vehicles. Ms. Vincent said she is struggling with the word presence. Does she really need to see them? She knows they are here. Ms. Nuccio said when she says presence; she is referring to things similar to Ms. Falusi's list. Mr. Werbner said those things on Ms. Falusi can be done, but some of them may be at a cost.

Mr. Eccles said it feels like they are at a consensus that the right number is 4. They are going to ask for more data, get the troopers in to talk to them. Mr. Werbner suggested having them in attendance at the budget workshop. The Council members agreed to that.

9. **OLD BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):**

9.1 Continued discussion of the Public Works/Highway Garage.

Mr. Werbner read his item summary for the Council:

On February 22, 2018, staff, the architect from Tecton and Paul Reynolds from the Town Council met to discuss potential cost savings related to the Highway Garage Project. With the Project being at the bid award stage it is



difficult to incorporate significant changes to the proposed design without complete redesign. It should be noted that the low bid for the project was 3.8 million dollars which was some \$600,000 below the Architects cost estimate. Of the 3.8 million dollars, site work, water and sewer lines and a pump station cost 1.5 million dollars. Therefore the actual building portion of this project is in the 2.3 million dollar range of which we are holding back some \$426,000 as a contingency for subsurface conditions. We reviewed the potential cost savings associated with a tarp covering for the open garage portion in lieu of doors and concrete walls. While there were some cost savings they were somewhat minimal in relation to the overall price and most likely any savings would be lost due to the need to rebid the project at a time when material costs are increasing and contractors are seeing increased business. It was suggested that if the project encountered subsurface conditions in an amount greater than the current contingency for the project that alternative forms of covering could be considered.

We also reviewed the possibility of solar panels being added to the roof of the building. The architect will discuss with the fabricator of the building as to the possibility of installing the support necessary to allow for the consideration of solar in the future.

Since we last met on this issue some additional questions have been asked regarding the growth of the Town since the last addition to the highway garage in the 80's. The original highway building was built in 1972. In 1981 a 4000 square foot addition was constructed. Since that time there have been no modifications to the building. While we don't have records of the growth of our fleet we do know that in the 80's we maintained some 94.7 miles of road and now we maintain some 133 miles which is a 40% increase over that time.

In addition there was a question regarding the wash bay that we were proposing to build. The under carriage system that was originally proposed for the truck wash bay was a state of the art system that utilized an infrared beam to activate and terminate the water flow through stainless steel piping with drilled and tapped holes with nozzles aimed at the underside of the vehicles. While this is an excellent system for an automated type wash bay, our design is completely manual with hand activated valves that control the flow through a one and a half inch diameter PVC pipe with holes drilled in it that will allow the water to flush the bottom of the trucks off. We visited other DPW's to see what the preferred method of under carriage washing was before we incorporated this idea into our design. The benefit of our simplistic system is that when the PVC pipe becomes damaged, which is a very good possibility considering the harsh environment that it is in, we can simply replace it in-house and re-drill the holes and continue on with little down time. We are utilizing our current pressure washer for the "Steam Cleaning" portion of any washing and will use the one and a quarter inch rubber hoses to flush the framework of the trucks as well as for the rinsing off of any cleansers.

At the end of our discussion the consensus of the group was to proceed with the project as bid.

Mr. Reynolds said when they looked at the plus and minuses, it did not seem feasible to change the project. The risk would have been high, and not a cost savings. If this was looked at way back, it would have been more beneficial. The solar has some potential, but it is getting ready to go out to bid. Provisions can be made in the future for that.

Mr. Reagan needs help in articulating how the Council can explain the need of this to the community. Mr. Eccles said we are borrowing to pay for it. Even though we are borrowing, we are not changing our debt service plan, because debt is currently being paid down. Mr. Werbner said there are facilities and infrastructure that need to be maintained and protected. The current facility is out of Code in terms of worker space and the wash bay. We have an obligation to provide a safe and adequate workspace for our employees. This is an investment that the community has to make in order to take care of its rolling stock. It is an essential part of the town's operations. This has been studied over the years, and it needs to be done.

Mr. Werbner will sign the contract, and hopes that construction will begin in March.

10. **REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER (A WRITTEN REPORT SHALL BE PROVIDED THE 1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE MONTH ONLY):** Mr. Werbner had nothing additional to add to his written report.



**11. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- 11.1 February 13, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes: David Skoczulek moved to adopt the minutes; Seconded by Brenda Falusi. All in favor. None opposed.
- 11.2 February 15, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes: David Skoczulek moved to adopt the minutes; Seconded by Tammy Nuccio. All in favor. None opposed.
- 11.3 February 20, 2018 Goals Subcommittee Special Meeting Minutes: David Skoczulek moved to adopt the minutes; Seconded by Tammy Nuccio. All in favor. None opposed. Paul Reynolds abstained.
- 11.4 February 21, 2018 Shared Services Ad Hoc Committee Special Meeting Minutes: David Skoczulek moved to adopt the minutes; Seconded by Tammy Nuccio. All in favor. None opposed. Christine Vincent, Paul Reynolds and Brenda Falusi abstained.

**12. CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNCIL:** Nothing to report.

**13. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mr. Eccles reported that he has the BOE liaison schedule completed. He will distribute the list to the Council members via e-mail. Ms. Nuccio will attend tomorrow night's meeting. Chairman's hour is this Thursday, the first Thursday of the month.

**14. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILPERSONS:** None.

**15. PUBLIC LISTED PARTICIPATION** *(on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council)*  
*(3 minute limit)*

Katie Murray of 8 Lisa Lane: When are you going to bring in a different perspective on legislative priorities? Tonight, she saw three of the people that representative us here in town, but that is not all of the people who represent us. Mr. Eccles asked who she would like to see. Ms. Murray said the Governor, the Lt. Governor and the other groups that Mr. Ackert suggested. Mr. Eccles said they will send out invites to others.

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

David Skoczulek motioned to go into Executive Session at 9:25 p.m., ending the Regular Meeting of the Town Council. Seconded by Brenda Falusi. All in favor. None opposed. The Executive Session ended at 9:52 p.m.

**16.1** Discuss personnel matter.

**17. ADJOURNMENT:** David Skoczulek moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Brenda Falusi at 9:52 p.m. All were in favor.

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William N. Eccles, Chairman

**Michelle A. Finnegan**  
Town Council Clerk

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**TOWN COUNCIL/BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**JOINT MEETING**  
**LIBRARY PROGRAM ROOM**

**MARCH 6, 2018 - 7:00 P.M.**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** William Eccles, Chair; David Skoczulek, Vice-Chair; Brenda Falusi; Tammy Nuccio; John Reagan; Paul Reynolds and Christine Vincent

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**BOE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Colleen Yudichak, Chair; Karen Moran, Vice-Chair; Sam Adlerstein; Michelle Harrold; Jane Pasini; Christina Plourd and Jeff Schroeder

**BOE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Robert Pagoni and Susan Seaver

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steven Werbner, Town Manager; Lisa Hancock, Director of Finance and Records; Christopher Jordan, Assistant Finance Director; Walter Willett, Superintendent; Ali Simon and Mallory Goldsmith, School Reps

1. **Call to Order – Pursuant to Section § C9-4 of the Town Charter the Town Manager is required to call and attend a joint meeting of the Town Council and Board of Education for the purpose of discussing the appropriation request of the Board of Education – Explanation of the budget process by the Town Manager**

Steven Werbner called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Mr. Werbner advised that the BOE has completed their budget process, and have submitted the budget for consideration to him. He has included the recommendation of the BOE in his recommended budget, which he is passing off to the Council tonight. The budget will be posted to the website tomorrow. He reviewed the dates remaining on the budget schedule, and the process going forward.

2. **Recommendations and suggestions to BOE regarding consolidation of non-education services and cost savings (per State Statutes (Public Act 13-60))**

Mr. Werbner said this obligation has been met by establishing the Shared Services Committee. They have started to meet, and will continue to meet.

3. **Questions from the public (2 minute limit) specific to the Board of Education budget with questions being directed by the Town Council Chair to the appropriate body for response**

**Deb Goetz of 176 Kate Lane:** What is the potential impact on the taxpayers?

*Mr. Werbner said they use three different assessment levels. Market value homes assessed at 1) \$167,000; 2) \$268,000; and 3) \$514,000. At the lowest end, the tax increase would be \$101.00, middle range \$162.00, and at the high end it would be \$309.00.*

**Sam Adlerstein of 164 Pine Hill Road:** He asked Mr. Werbner if he used the legislative approved number or something else.



*Mr. Werbner said he used a blended figure between the Governor's and Legislative adopted number. It came out to about \$9.3m for ECS, which is about the hold-back number.*

**4. Petitions and/or questions to the Board of Education from Town Council members specific to the BOE Budget**

Tammy Nuccio said the only concern about the BOE budget that she has is not knowing what their plan is to mitigate the ½ million dollars. The .78 budget doesn't take out the ½ million dollar credit in health insurance, which can be a onetime event. It brings the budget up to 2.08%, which really is the addition of the five positions that are being added. When they get to next year and don't have that ½ million dollars, what will the plan be to mitigate that. Mr. Eccles asked why there is a credit of ½ million. Ms. Nuccio said it was because their claim experience was better than what they had been paying. So, the insurance companies adjust the bank levels and adjust the amount that needs to be paid in. So, they get a credit. Mr. Eccles asked if the premiums will increase next year by ½ million dollars because they will have normal claim experiences?

*Mr. Werbner said claims are claims. They cannot predict how many people are going to use their insurance. They do as much as they can through the E-chip to save as much money as they can on administrative expenses and taxes, etc. It really can't be predicted. Sometimes it negatively affects the budgets.*

Ms. Nuccio said if they don't find a way to mitigate it, then they will come in at a 2% increase next year just to stay flat.

Michelle Harrold said that as of July 1<sup>st</sup> all of the bargaining units will be on the E-chip and the HSA. So, the deductibles will start working their way down, which will be a savings. The programs they are looking to invest in are to offset all of their increasing costs.

Sam Adlerstein said the Board feels they are being as fiscally responsible as they can be. It takes a lot of reduction to have this small of an increase. If they are not careful, they will be degrading their education. He asked the Council members what their commitment to quality education is.

Mr. Eccles said he is committed to the quality of education, but he is also committed to the taxpayers at the same time. They are not the advocates for the school system. They are the advocates for the taxpayers, as well as the school system. There are many factors to weigh, not just the cost of education. It is also the costs of the roads, and other services we expect in town to make sure that the residents can afford to live here to enjoy that education. He said they need to come up with creative solutions. The Board can't let the State drive them.

Mr. Reynolds said he agrees with Mr. Eccles. They need to look at what is being proposed to the residents, and what will pass through the referendum process. He thinks things need to be balanced. He believes there is a limit in terms of what will get passed. They can't keep increasing because of the lack of ECS funding.

Ms. Falusi said as the Council and the BOE they have the opportunity to educate everybody in town about what the impacts will be if they don't do some of the programs that the BOE is building up. If they can't show people how important it is to sustain the education, then they will just slide downhill. She thinks the Board has done a great job.

David Skoczulek believes the Board's budget is responsible and he supports it. He doesn't know if the baseline is where they will end up though. He would like to review Mr. Werbner's budget before commenting further. He has more to absorb.



John Regan said he has two kids in the school system, and he will for the next five years. So, his commitment to the excellence in the school system is clearly there. He turned the question around though and asked what the BOE's commitment is to the town. They need to look at it both ways. Both are valid questions, and they need to work together to see if they can find some creative solutions.

Christine Vincent said her commitment is to the town as a whole. It is not just education or the town. It is the Town of Tolland as a whole. What does the Town of Tolland look like moving forward for everybody (our seniors, our vets, parents and students)?

Tammy Nuccio said she supports education across the board. She thinks the .78 is a good number, but she thinks they are putting themselves behind if they don't have a plan in place for next year. She goes to all the BOE meetings, and there is a lot of talk about the Lighthouse, etc. Personally, she would like to see more focus on bringing back kids from out-of-district. This is not going to get any better. They need to look at reasonable reduction, increase and use of the fund. At some point, uncomfortable decisions will need to be made. There needs to be concessions on both sides. She doesn't think anyone here is anti-education. They need to have a good education, but they need to be responsible to the taxpayers.

Ms. Harrold said three of the positions that they are looking to add are to help them save money, or to bring money in. This budget has their plan for how they are potentially going to reduce, and find more money. She said this is their year to prepare for the future. They will put all the pieces together, so that they can be in a better position next year. Ms. Nuccio said she agrees with the 2 interventionists, but she struggles with the business teacher / business academy. Ms. Harrold said that Dr. Willett has put something together for them, that they will be sharing with the Council. The business teacher is to start bringing back some of the \$250,000 they send out to magnets. It is the first step to kids wanting to be here, or to stay here. It will enable them to be competitive with the magnets.

Mallory Goldsmith commented that she has noticed many changes. She was wondering if they will get any services back.

*Colleen Yudichak commented that they would like to bring back a math interventionist, a business teacher, etc. She said they are trying to bring back a lot of things to make the District stronger. She commented that when they were working on the budget, they were up and down. They voted 6/3 on the .78 budget. They are losing about \$77,000 from the budget, and are able to keep all these positions in place.*

*Ms. Plourd asked Ms. Goldsmith how she was personally affected by the cuts.*

Mallory Goldsmith said they didn't have as many supplies, there was overcrowding in classes, and some classes were cut.

Mr. Adlerstein said they will be doing well to hold their own. He said he reviewed the Council's goals that were passed at the last meeting. He was wondering if they would be willing to add a goal that had to do with quality of service. Mr. Eccles said they will consider that.

Mr. Regan said he appreciates the work that the Board has put into their budget process, but sometimes he feels like the Council is the bad guy in town by making it seem like they are holding back from the Board. He wants the schools to be as good as they possibly can, and have everything that they can have.

Colleen Yudichak asked if the Council will support the Board's increase.

Ms. Nuccio said the .78 is reasonable, but she can't say she's jumping on the .78 because she doesn't know what the rest of Mr. Werbner's budget looks like. They just received it tonight. Ms. Falusi said she is behind whatever the Board came forward with.

Ms. Plourd advised that she attended a summit on regionalization. They spoke about sharing services with the Board of Education. She sees opportunity for them to save money there. With regard to the Business Academy, she sees kids from Canterbury, etc. coming here. She spoke about her opinion on the new positions.

Colleen Yudichak asked Mr. Willett if they could share the information regarding the business position with the Council members.

*Mr. Willett said he had been waiting for information from the State, which he just received 24 hours ago. He will be sharing it.*

Ms. Nuccio asked the Board to quantify the non-funded mandates. If they can get other towns to do the same, they can go to the Legislature and fight them. She volunteered to go with them as a Rep from the Council.

Jane Pasini said Dr. Willett does a great job keeping our kids safe in our schools. She asked that when the Council looks at the .78 increase, they keep the safety and security of the kids in mind. They have two SRO's, but they are not there all the time. They do a great job, but there is always room for improvement.

Mr. Werbner said the State needs to start planning for the future. They need to hold whoever is running for office to the fire, and those people need to move forward, rather than blaming people in the past. Tolland has done everything right. Ms. Vincent agreed.

Karen Moran said she heard a couple of things tonight: creative solutions and being responsible to the taxpayers. She feels they have done those two things. She spoke about what DECA does. They have a strong foundation of business at the high school, so the pathway to the business academy will help with that. As far as being responsible to the taxpayers, she feels that this budget is very responsible. There are still a lot of holes to fill. In her mind, with .78, they are filling a few holes, but creating a few other smaller holes in the process. The education system in town is specifically correlated with property values. She personally would like to see them have a really strong education system to make sure they are sustaining that for her property values. She thinks everyone else would appreciate that too.

Colleen Yudichak asked why some items on the bond request haven't been fulfilled yet. Some include surveillance, vestibule door, locks, and alarms.

*Mr. Werbner said the school bond issue is under the control of the BOE. The town has nothing to do with the pace or priorities. He said he does have concern regarding the Birch Grove roof until he is convinced as to the foundation situation. He has had no discussion with anyone regarding holding back on the bond issue, and what was approved in that bond issue.*

5. **Adjournment:** Steven Werbner adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

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Steven R. Werbner  
Town Manager

**Michelle A. Finnegan**  
Town Council Clerk