

Christopher Wilson, Chair  
Karen Vibert, Vice-Chair  
Karen Hintz, Secretary  
Jeffrey Caggiano  
Jennifer Dube  
Kristen Giantonio  
Joseph Grabowski  
Thomas O'Brien  
Tina Taylor



Susan Kalt Moreau, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Catherine M. Carbone, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

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## **BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING**

A special meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, March 11, 2019 in the Auditorium of the Board of Education Administrative Building, located at 129 Church Street, Bristol, Connecticut.

Present: Jeff Caggiano, Jennifer Dube, Kristen Giantonio, Karen Hintz, Karen Vibert, and Chris Wilson. Also present: Dr. Susan Kalt Moreau, Dr. Catherine Carbone, Dr. Michael Dieter, Mrs. Carly Fortin, and Mrs. Jill Browne.

Excused: Tom O'Brien, Tina Taylor

1. **Call to order** by Chair Wilson at 7:16 p.m.

### **2. Public Comment**

Cheryl Thibeault stated that she has questions about the budget that she will send to us prior to the presentation of the Board of Education budget to the Board of Finance.

### **3. 2019-2020 General Fund Budget Approval – Action Item**

#### **Discussion:**

Commissioner Caggiano is looking for savings by using e-books. He said he has questions about teacher salary increases. We have been underfunding special education. He is nervous about going forward with this kind of increase.

Commissioner Vibert believes that it is important for our board to educate the public about what education is going to cost.

Commissioner Grabowski agrees this is a large request, but it is our job to tell the Board of Finance what we need. We may need to make cuts.

Commissioner Wilson stated that he has had conversations with members of the Board of Finance and City Council. They understand that we have to ask for what we need. If we say that we value our students and what they need, we have to request that.

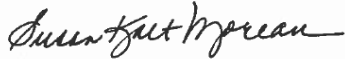
Commissioner Giantonio stated there is agreement on the magnitude of this budget. When we have another 20 students enter who need special services, we need to meet those needs. If we believe in educating all children then this is what we have to do.

Commissioner Dube stated the size of the request is a lot. I'm in schools a lot and I see the need. I wonder about the long run. I'm a planner. I have a five year and ten year plan. We need to have a conversation about tough decisions including redistricting.

On a motion by Karen Vibert, seconded by Karen Hintz, the Superintendent's Budget totaling \$119,998,531 was adopted by the Board of Education to be forwarded to the Board of Finance for consideration, with the following votes: J. Caggiano "I do not support the budget", J. Dube, K. Giantonio, J. Grabowski, K. Hintz, K. Vibert, C. Wilson "I do support the budget".

4. Adjournment at 7:32

Respectfully submitted:



Susan Kalt Moreau, Ph.D.