

3/21 Special Meeting Attachment

Andrea Migliaccio <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>

Sun 3/19/2023 9:23 PM

To: **Boards & Commissions** <b-c@colchesterct.gov>

Please attach to Tuesday March 21 BOF Special Meeting Agenda

Andrea Migliaccio, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-705-1118

From: Andrea Migliaccio <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>

Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2023 9:12 PM

To: Alexander Oliphant <aoliphant@colchesterct.org>

Cc: Charles Hewes <chewes@colchesterct.org>; Christopher Rivers <crivers@colchesterct.org>; Andreas Bisbikos <abisbikos@colchesterct.gov>; Heather Petit <hpetit@colchesterct.org>; Michael Sinkewicz <mikesink20@gmail.com>; Mike Hayes <mhayes@colchesterct.gov>; John Thomas <jthomas@colchesterct.gov>; Mary Tomasi <mtomasi@colchesterct.org>; Rosemary Gignac <rgignac@colchesterct.org>; Tim Vaillancourt <tVaillancourt@ColchesterCT.gov>; Margo Gignac <mgignac@colchesterct.org>; Rachel Linkkila <rlinkkila@colchesterct.org>; Michelle Millington <mmillington@colchesterct.org>; Art Shilosky <artshilosky@yahoo.com>; Donna Antonacci <dantonacci@colchesterct.org>; Mary Williamson <mwilliamson@colchesterct.gov>; Daniel Sullivan <dsullivan@colchesterct.org>; Art Shilosky <aShilosky@colchesterct.gov>; Mike Egan <megan@colchesterct.gov>; mritter@goodwin.com <mritter@goodwin.com>

Subject: Re: reports

Hello Alex,

Tuesdays Workshop is postponed, however, the BOF will instead hold a Special Meeting Tuesday at 6:00 to discuss this matter with my full board. I have posted an agenda, but note that I intend to make minor changes to it tomorrow so please check for the update before posting the agenda widely.

Thank you.

Andrea Migliaccio, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-705-1118

From: Alexander Oliphant <aoliphant@colchesterct.org>

Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 1:08 PM

To: Andrea Migliaccio <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>

Cc: Charles Hewes <chewes@colchesterct.org>; Christopher Rivers <crivers@colchesterct.org>; Andreas Bisbikos <abisbikos@colchesterct.gov>; Heather Petit <hpetit@colchesterct.org>; Michael Sinkewicz <mikesink20@gmail.com>; Mike Hayes <mhayes@colchesterct.gov>; John Thomas <jthomas@colchesterct.gov>; Mary Tomasi <mtomasi@colchesterct.org>; Rosemary Gignac <rgignac@colchesterct.org>; Tim Vaillancourt <tVaillancourt@ColchesterCT.gov>; Margo Gignac <mgignac@colchesterct.org>; Rachel Linkkila <rlinkkila@colchesterct.org>; Michelle Millington <mmillington@colchesterct.org>; Art Shilosky <artshilosky@yahoo.com>; Donna Antonacci <dantonacci@colchesterct.org>; Mary Williamson <mwilliamson@colchesterct.gov>; Daniel Sullivan <dsullivan@colchesterct.org>; Art Shilosky <aShilosky@colchesterct.gov>; Mike Egan <megan@colchesterct.gov>; mritter@goodwin.com

<mritter@goodwin.com>

Subject: Re: reports

Chairman Board of Finance,

Thank you for notifying us of your decision to cancel the Board of Finance Budget Workshop scheduled for Tuesday March 21, 2023 at 6:00. My fellow Board of Education members and I are disappointed that you are taking this action considering that we have complied with all of the requirements in the Colchester Town Charter and those required by Connecticut General Statutes.

For the record, the Board of Education would like to know how the Board of Finance and town plan to proceed to ensure compliance with Connecticut General Statutes as outlined below. As a reminder, we presented our budget in the Public Hearing on March 7, 2023 and according to statute, the receiving Board has ten days to take action. While we are confident that the weather cancellation would allow a reasonable extension of time, it wouldn't be indefinite as this Board has fulfilled its obligations relative to town charter and state statute.

We ask that you 1) confirm the official cancellation of the meeting on Tuesday so we can inform staff and families, and 2) let us know when you plan to fulfill your statutory requirement and set the Board of Education budget.

CT Gen. Statute 10-222 - Appropriations and budget

Each local board of education shall prepare an itemized estimate of the cost of maintenance of public schools for the ensuing year and shall submit such estimate to the board of finance in each town or city having a board of finance, to the board of selectmen in each town having no board of finance or otherwise to the authority making appropriations for the school district, not later than two months preceding the annual meeting at which appropriations are to be made. The board or authority that receives such estimate shall, not later than ten days after the date the board of education submits such estimate, make spending recommendations and suggestions to such board of education as to how such board of education may consolidate noneducational services and realize financial efficiencies. Such board of education may accept or reject the suggestions of the board of finance, board of selectmen or appropriating authority and shall provide the board of finance, board of selectmen or appropriating authority with a written explanation of the reason for any rejection. The money appropriated by any municipality for the maintenance of public schools shall be expended by and in the discretion of the board

of education. Except as provided in this subsection, any such board may transfer any unexpended or uncontracted-for portion of any appropriation for school purposes to any other item of such itemized estimate. Boards may, by adopting policies and procedures, authorize designated personnel to make limited transfers under emergency circumstances if the urgent need for the transfer prevents the board from meeting in a timely fashion to consider such transfer. All transfers made in such instances shall be announced at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board and a written explanation of such transfer shall be provided to the legislative body of the municipality or, in a municipality where the legislative body is a town meeting, to the board of selectmen. Expenditures by the board of education shall not exceed the appropriation made by the municipality, with such money as may be received from other sources for school purposes. If any occasion arises whereby additional funds are needed by such board, the chairman of such board shall notify the board of finance, board of selectmen or appropriating authority, as the case may be, and shall submit a request for additional funds in the same manner as is provided for departments, boards or agencies of the municipality and no additional funds shall be expended unless such supplemental appropriation shall be granted and no supplemental expenditures shall be made in excess of those granted through the appropriating authority. The annual report of the board of education shall, in accordance with section 10-224, include a summary showing (1) the total cost of the maintenance of schools, (2) the amount received from the state and other sources for the maintenance of schools, and (3) the net cost to the municipality of the maintenance of schools. For purposes of this subsection, "meeting" means a meeting, as defined in section 1-200, and "itemized estimate" means an estimate in which broad budgetary categories including, but not limited to, salaries, fringe benefits, utilities, supplies and grounds maintenance are divided into one or more line items.

Very Respectfully,
Alexander Oliphant Chair Board of Education

On Thu, Mar 16, 2023 at 8:41 PM Andrea Migliaccio
<BOFChair@colchesterct.gov> wrote:

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> Thank you for your time and attention. Since March 9th, I have been trying to obtain what the school has expended over the last two years and compare, line-by-line, the intended use of funds for next year. We follow the exact process for the town and every previous school budget.

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> I have attached a document that may clarify my position.

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> Munis aren't easy to read, and the desire to create user-friendly charts as you have could be beneficial. However, there is a fundamental need for the data to a finance board; therefore, it is unwavering considering we levy tax.

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> There are many threats to cut services on social media, in meetings and in email correspondence. The perils come from the Superintendent whom you supervise. I recommend consider making a BOE statement that you will not cut Music, Sports or Teachers (Non-ARPA because those were due to end and I fear you hadn't provided oversight to prepare) regardless of approved budget. Minimum budget standards should afford our district to protect status quo, by in large, no programming should be in danger this year. Local cuts could be expected when the state cuts our funding, this is not the case this year.

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> Furthermore, I have to disagree with your saying we hit a perfect storm. Ten years ago, our town was at a 5% fund balance. Rob Tarlov, Maggie Cosgrove, and many other exceptional leaders created a long-term budget plan to build up our fund balance and improve bond rating while maintaining our town and schools. In those ten years, we built new schools, increased fund balance to over 15%, improved the bond rating that supported our town's initiatives and allowing for fiscally sound bonding movements which we still put into practice, to continue growing as a community. You seem convinced our schools are underfunded due to a lack of budget spikes over ten years, whereas I realize the schools have funding to support their needs, including programming, without surprises that cause spikes. Maggie was masterful at avoiding spikes in her ability to forecast for our town and schools, your insinuation that her work over her career, and that of exceptional leaders of our town, created a spike for you this year is dismissive.

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> I do not disagree that schools need more funding and BOF is more than willing to address the needs of the district, in fact, our schools are a budget priority. The BOF needs to see the needs in numbers both historically and forecasted, line-by-line. Its taxpayer money and CO uses Munis daily, so this really is not a big ask, it's protocol.

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> At this time, I will be postponing the workshop until our board can attain the information we need. I have spoken with our town attorney and auditor; they agree that Its ill advised to move a budget to a referendum that is not presented and reviewed in the spirit our town has conducted business for 17 years.

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> Andrea Migliaccio, Chairman, Board of Finance

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> 860-705-1118

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> From: Alexander Oliphant <aoliphant@colchesterct.org>
> Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:24 PM

> To: Andrea Migliaccio <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
> Cc: Daniel Sullivan <dsullivan@colchesterct.org>; John Thomas <jthomas@colchesterct.gov>; Art Shilosky <aShilosky@colchesterct.gov>; Mike Hayes <mhayes@colchesterct.gov>; Tim Vaillancourt <tVaillancourt@ColchesterCT.gov>; Mike Egan <megan@colchesterct.gov>; Margo Gignac <mgignac@colchesterct.org>; Rosemary Gignac <rgignac@colchesterct.org>; Donna Antonacci <dantonacci@colchesterct.org>; Michelle Millington <mmillington@colchesterct.org>; Christopher Rivers <crivers@colchesterct.org>; Mary Tomasi <mtomasi@colchesterct.org>; Rachel Linkkila <rlinkkila@colchesterct.org>; Charles Hewes <chewes@colchesterct.org>; Heather Petit <hpetit@colchesterct.org>; Michael Sinkewicz <mikesink20@gmail.com>
> Subject: Re: reports
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> Chair Board of Finance,
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> Please see the attached response to your email of March 15, 2023 and the attachment pertaining to special education.
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> Very Respectfully,
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> Alexander Oliphant
> Chair Board of Education
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> On Wed, Mar 15, 2023, 8:43 AM Andrea Migliaccio <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov> wrote:
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> As BOF Chairman I recognize that the education department has experienced three superintendents this year. Although employees can't be certain, numbers can be. This is why we use the Munis platform for budgeting in our town. .
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> Our towns and schools financial condition is stable and consistent thanks the the impeccable work of our 17 year former CFO who retired last year. In no budgetary year have we ever threatened teachers or programming like you have this year. Even when our state threatened substantial cuts, our BOE didn't not pass the financial woe on to the classroom. In 2017 the state did reduce our income after the budget bu \$1.2M, and still programming, teachers and tax payers were not directly impacted. Your inflammatory narrative and scare tactics is a low for our community.
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> Today, I must insist Rachel enter the budget request into the munis program, exactly as it has been since 2018. She has the last several year budget book details for her reference.
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> Furthermore, you must also substantiate the Special Education increase of \$1.2M. The BOE's failure to provide financial over-site, despite my numbers warnings since June 2022, is a clear act of willful blindness. I reached out to the auditors, attorneys, and other politicians to find that under no circumstances would our town be in a position to absorb this increase without reimbursement despite your claims that our town must bear the full cost. I will await your substantiation.
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> Once the BOF has proper data we will ensure the funding is appropriate for the schools, which was the work BOE was suppose to accomplish but failed. With the BOF bottom line authority the superintend

and BOE can and will ultimately spend as they chose. If they chose to impact our classrooms its a choice and a bad one at that.

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> BOF will need full budget detail by EOD Thursday or risk postponing the next workshop.

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> Andrea Migliaccio, Chairman, Board of Finance

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> 860-705-1118

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> From: Daniel Sullivan <dsullivan@colchesterct.org>

> Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 10:24 PM

> To: Andrea Migliaccio <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>

> Cc: John Thomas <jthomas@colchesterct.gov>; Art Shilosky <aShilosky@colchesterct.gov>; Mike Hayes <mhayes@colchesterct.gov>; Tim Vaillancourt <tVaillancourt@ColchesterCT.gov>; Mike Egan <megan@colchesterct.gov>; Alexander Oliphant <aoliphant@colchesterct.org>; Margo Gignac <mgignac@colchesterct.org>; Rosemary Gignac <rgignac@colchesterct.org>; Donna Antonacci <dantonacci@colchesterct.org>; Michelle Millington <mmillington@colchesterct.org>; Christopher Rivers <crivers@colchesterct.org>; Mary Tomasi <mtomasi@colchesterct.org>; Rachel Linkkila <rlinkkila@colchesterct.org>; Charles Hewes <chewes@colchesterct.org>; Heather Petit <hpetit@colchesterct.org>

> Subject: reports

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> Good evening:

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> Attached is the Munis report you requested along with an Excel document, and Budget Code definitions. FYI, these documents will be posted to the BOE webpage tomorrow with all of our other budget related materials. I hope you have a good St. Patrick's Day and look forward to working with you next Tuesday.

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> Dan

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