

*Robert J. Packer*

2017 NOV 29 A 10: 36

EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
1110 MAIN STREET, 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
TOWN CLERK  
EAST HARTFORD

NOVEMBER 27, 2017

BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET WORKSHOP

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair Linda A. Russo, Majority Leader Ram Aberasturia, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Marc I. Weinberg, Joseph R. Carlson, Shelby Brown, Patricia Harmon and Caroline Torres

ALSO Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent of Schools  
PRESENT Paul Mainuli, Business Manager, EH Public Schools  
Ben Whittaker, Facilities Manager, EH Public Schools  
Christopher Wethje, Human Resources, EH Public Schools  
Joanne Zatarain, CPA, EH Public Schools  
Cynthia Ritchie, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Curriculum  
Anne Marie Mancini, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum  
Dr. Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel  
Dr. Sarah Brzozowy, Data Analyst/School Improvement Specialist  
Board of Education Members:  
Bryan Hall, Tyron Harris, Tom Rup, Marilyn Pet,  
Stephanie Watkins, Valerie Scheer, Harry Amadasun, Jr., and  
Dorese Roberts  
Michael Walsh, Finance Director

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

The Board of Education presented an overview of the Superintendent's proposed budget for fiscal year 2018-2019 which contains a 0% increase. The budget includes the elimination of 48.5 positions including certified staff, administrative staff, tutors and others. The proposal means that services and programs will be maintained but at reduced levels. The zero increase is the result of discussions between town and board staff, the mayor, council and board of education representatives regarding expected additional reductions in state assistance for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. This proposal allows both the town and the board to better prepare for this unfortunate reality.

Town Councillors and Board members asked questions and expressed concern about the impact of the cuts on the ability of the board to properly address the challenges facing many students and ensuring that they can succeed.

Town Councillors were encouraged to submit any additional questions about the budget proposal to the Town Council Clerk who can transmit them to the Board of Education and ensure that answers are distributed to all Councillors.

Nate Quesnel, Superintendent of Schools, Board of Education Chair Bryan Hall and Council Chair Rich Kehoe all praised the budget process that has been implemented in

the past three years. Under this process, the Board of Education and town administration budget books provide similar categories for each expenditure and revenue account and provide clarity on grant funded positions. The Board and Council work jointly from the initial stages of the budget process because the boards are in this together - the town and the schools rise and fall together.

#### ADJOURNMENT

MOTION      By Esther Clarke  
                 seconded by Linda Russo  
                 to **adjourn** (8:25 p.m.)  
                 Motion carried 9/0.

Attest Richard F. Kehoe  
         Richard F. Kehoe      *AK*  
         Town Council Chair