



State Education Resource Center (SERC)

MINUTES

SERC Board of Directors Special Meeting

Tuesday, June 9, 2015 -- 8:30 a.m.

Meriden Board of Education

22 Liberty Street, 3rd Floor, Meriden, CT

- Present:** Chairman Mark Benigni, George Coleman, Jeffrey Leake, Steven McKeever (Mr. McKeever joined the meeting by telephone at 8:48 a.m. and then arrived in person), Richard Porth, Jr., Thomas Swan (Mr. Swan joined the meeting at 8:49 a.m.), Diane Ullman (Ms. Ullman joined the meeting by telephone at 8:30 a.m.), Agnes Quinones.
- Absent:** Liz Brown, Charlene Russell-Tucker, Jennifer Tooker, and Eileen Ziegler.
- Others Present:** Ingrid M. Canady, SERC Interim Executive Director; Alfred P. Bruno, SERC General Counsel; Jennifer LeBrun, SERC Executive Assistant.

ITEM #1: Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Benigni at 8:48 a.m.

ITEM #2: Items Requiring Action

A. Proposed Operating Annual Budget

Ingrid Canady presented the proposed 2015-16 SERC Operating Annual Budget.

There was discussion around the current fiscal gap. Ms. Canady reported that upon the Boards approval SERC has reduced staff health benefits and restructured the contributions that SERC makes to the employee tax shelter annuity. In addition, Ms. Canady mentioned that such changes didn't yield the needed results to close the existing fiscal gap; therefore to balance the budget, position eliminations would be necessary.

Motion to approve the proposed SERC 2015-16 Operating Annual Budget and to reduce the SERC workforce by 13 positions.

Motion: Mr. Coleman

Second: Mr. Leake

Vote on Motion:

In favor: 8 (Benigni, Coleman, Leake, McKeever, Porth, Swan, Ullman, Quinones)

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

B. Release and Settlement Agreement

Mr. Bruno presented two different Release and Settlement Agreement options for Board approval. The Release and Settlement Agreement format provided a more formal option, while the cover letter version offered a “softer” approach to achieve the same result. Both versions will cover SERC legally.

Motion to approve the Release and Settlement Agreement cover letter option.

Motion: Mr. Porth, Jr.

Second: Ms. Quinones

Vote on Motion:

In favor: 8 (Benigni, Coleman, Leake, McKeever, Porth, Swan, Ullman, Quinones)

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Item #3: Executive Session

Motion to enter into Executive Session

Motion: Ms. Quinones

Second: Mr. Leake

Vote on Motion:

In favor: 8 (Benigni, Coleman, Leake, McKeever, Porth, Swan, Ullman, Quinones)

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

The Board voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 9:34 a.m.

Present in executive session were Board Chair Mark Benigni and members George Coleman, Jeffrey Leake, Steven McKeever, Richard Porth, Jr., Agnes Quinones, Thomas Swan, Jr., and Diane Ullman (Ms. Ullman joined the Executive Session by telephone).

Motion to exit Executive Session with no motions or actions taken.

Motion: Mr. Leake

Second: Mr. Porth

Vote on Motion:

In favor: 7 (Benigni, Coleman, Leake, McKeever, Porth, Swan, Quinones)

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Diane Ullman left meeting by telephone at 9:45 a.m.

The Board voted unanimously to exit Executive Session at 9:52 a.m.

Motion to approve retroactive pay to SERC Interim Executive Director from December 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

Motion: Mr. Leake

Second: Dr. Benigni

Vote on Motion:

In favor: 7 (Benigni, Coleman, Leake, McKeever, Porth, Swan, Quinones)

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

ITEM #3: Adjournment

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Submitted by:

Jennifer LeBrun, Board Recording Secretary