

TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hicks Municipal Center
Council Chambers
Tolland, CT 06084

REGULAR MEETING

7:30 – 10:00 P.M.

AGENDA
March 11, 2015

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 25, 2015

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. POINTS OF INFORMATION

E. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT – Charles Perosino and Sarah Welch

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- F.1 Monthly Financial Report
- F.2 PEGPETIA Grant (no enclosure)
- F.3 Standardized Testing (no enclosure)
- F.4 Update on Curriculum, Instruction, Training and Goals (no enclosure)
- F.5 Tim Ackert's Presentation – March 25 BOE Meeting (no enclosure)
- F.6 World Language (no enclosure)

G. COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

H. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

I. BOARD ACTION

J. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2 minute limit)

Comments must be limited to items on this agenda.

K. POINTS OF INFORMATION

L. CORRESPONDENCE

- **Town Council Meeting – February 24, 2015**

M. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

N. Executive Session to discuss the Paraprofessional Contract

O. ADJOURNMENT



TOLLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

51 TOLLAND GREEN
TOLLAND, CONNECTICUT 06084

OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
860-870-6850
FAX: 860-870-7737

Walter Willett, Ph.D.
Superintendent

F.1

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Frank B. Connolly, Interim Business Manager
RE: Monthly Financial Report-February, 2015
Date: March 11, 2015
CC: Walter Willett, Ph.D. Superintendent of Schools

Attached please find the financial report for the month of February, the 8th month of our fiscal year. This report is printed at the beginning of the following month, thereby capturing a snapshot of the financial condition at the end of each preceding month. This method allows for a good comparison each year for the same monthly time period.

The attachment is provided in an object format to clearly show the adopted budget and the expenditures against the budget. The object line items show all of the Board's expenses such as salaries, health insurance, utilities, textbooks, etc.

The attached February financial report shows that the deficit from the January report has disappeared due to the application of the first Special Education Excess Cost State reimbursement. A reimbursement check (actually ACH electronic payment) in the amount of \$1,065,612 was received and applied to our financials (Lines 510 and 560). Thus the February report shows a bottom line balance of \$ 338,281.45, or .91% of 1%.

The Excess Cost payment is the first of two payments, and represents 75% of what the State owes Tollard based on the December 1 Special Education filing. On March 1 our Special Education department filed the second SEDAC report; our overall special education expenditures went down by approximately \$20,000. In addition, the State's latest report recently released, shows our Net Current Expenditures per Pupil (NCEP) x the 4.5 formula went up from \$57,384 to \$58,631. This new amount is what we have to spend per child before the district is eligible for the reimbursement. This will therefore further reduce our second reimbursement check (remaining 25%) in May.

Tolland's Special Education Director filed on December 1 for Special Education Excess Cost reimbursement of \$1,661,767. At the anticipated rate of 77% reimbursement rate, we had expected to receive back for the year a total of \$1,279,561. The latest reimbursement at the 86% level represents an annualized re-imbusement of \$1,420,815. **I do not expect this to remain at this level.** In effect, I expect the May payment to make adjustments downward. A February 2, 2015 memo from the State includes the following cautionary note:

Since this a capped entitlement grant, your district's entitlement is affected by what other districts file. Final entitlements will be available in April. **Please note that statewide, districts' December 1 filing for the Excess Cost grant are lower than expected.**

In other words, our current reimbursement is higher than we had anticipated because other towns are lower. We must be very careful since this higher reimbursement number is not expected to hold. We will not know until May what the actual annualized rate will be.

These Excess Cost reimbursements are totally different than the ECS (Educational Cost Sharing) grants that go directly to the Town to help pay for local educational costs. The State's web site shows the town receiving \$10,902,485 this fiscal year. In the Governor's budget just released, this ECS grant, the largest State grant to the Town, remain the same for FY 2015-16 (see attached "Estimates of Statutory Formula Grants for FY 2015, FY 2016, and FY 2017).

There were several shifts in the budget during the month, both plusses and minuses. The heavy snowfall in February resulted in several unanticipated expenditures. Private contractor expenses for emergency snow removal from school roofs cost \$9,265. Two new snow blowers also had to be purchased. Overtime jumped over \$14,000 (line 130) in the month, and now is in a deficit mode. At this time we are still awaiting the final results on the expenditures of the high school emergency on Friday the 13th. The school was shut down due to burst pipes from freezing, and cost were incurred for repairs and temporary heating. There is insurance coverage, and we have been in regular contact with CIRMA, our insurer. Reserves have been established for \$100,000. We have confirmed our insurance deductible is \$2,500. Fortunately the expenditures for all of the damage covered by insurance is handled directly by CIRMA, so there is no budgetary impact other than the \$2,500 deductible. We are evaluating all losses, including food spoilage.

At this time, barring unforeseen circumstances, we should end the fiscal year in the black. The current fiscal is certainly tighter than last fiscal year. As noted, a key element will be the final Excess Cost reimbursement rate. If it remains at the higher level, it will add significantly to our end of the year balances. Without the higher reimbursement, we should still finish in the black.

Tolland Public Schools

FC OBJ A Expenditure Report Summary (by OBJ - ???)

Fiscal Year: 2014-2015

Subtotal by Collapse Mask

Include pre encumbrance

Print accounts with zero balance

Filter Encumbrance Detail by Date Range

From Date: 2/1/2015

To Date: 2/28/2015

Account Number	Description	GL Budget	Range To Date	YTD	Balance	Encumbrance	Budget Balance	% Bud
0100.0000.110.00.000.1	Salaries	\$21,410,569.00	\$1,644,898.37	\$12,019,065.93	\$9,391,503.07	\$8,896,159.77	\$495,343.30	2.31%
0100.0000.120.00.000.1	Substitutes	\$465,099.00	\$34,354.04	\$202,516.27	\$262,582.73	\$1,718.37	\$260,864.36	56.09%
0100.0000.130.00.000.1	Overtime	\$64,889.00	\$14,132.58	\$89,651.55	(\$4,762.55)	\$193.21	(\$4,955.76)	-5.84%
0100.0000.150.00.000.1	Stipends	\$329,888.00	(\$23,886.47)	\$150,269.82	\$179,618.18	\$280,753.48	(\$101,135.30)	-30.66%
0100.0000.190.00.000.1	Pension/Severance	(\$192,470.00)	\$0.00	\$219,142.22	(\$411,812.22)	\$287.00	(\$411,899.22)	214.01%
0100.0000.200.00.000.1	Employee Benefits	\$210,863.00	\$1,250.00	\$304,262.31	(\$93,399.31)	\$0.00	(\$93,399.31)	-44.29%
0100.0000.210.00.000.1	Health/Life/Disabl Ins	\$5,150,651.00	\$494,502.08	\$3,097,937.73	\$2,052,713.27	\$1,920,632.92	\$132,080.35	2.56%
0100.0000.220.00.000.1	FICA/MED/Soc Sec	\$542,290.00	\$40,692.86	\$321,315.28	\$220,974.72	\$209,411.38	\$11,563.34	2.13%
0100.0000.240.00.000.1	Retirement (ICMA)	\$189,568.00	\$15,049.38	\$135,745.60	\$53,822.40	\$70,457.21	(\$16,634.81)	-8.78%
0100.0000.250.00.000.1	Course Reimbursement-Degree Ch	\$35,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$15,000.00	42.86%
0100.0000.260.00.000.1	Unemployment Compensation	\$30,203.00	\$108.00	\$3,232.00	\$26,971.00	\$26,971.00	\$0.00	0.00%
0100.0000.270.00.000.1	Workers' Compensation	\$237,475.00	\$0.00	\$172,140.00	\$65,335.00	\$66,264.00	(\$929.00)	-0.39%
0100.0000.300.00.000.1	Purch Prof & Tech Svcs	\$20,680.00	\$6,704.80	\$20,927.71	(\$247.71)	\$695.00	(\$942.71)	-4.56%
0100.0000.310.00.000.1	Benefits Consultant Services	\$63,043.00	\$15,912.50	\$43,515.81	\$19,527.19	\$19,716.69	(\$189.50)	-0.30%
0100.0000.320.00.000.1	Prof Educ Svcs	\$357,432.00	\$35,688.94	\$185,916.22	\$171,515.78	\$162,716.38	\$8,799.40	2.46%
0100.0000.330.00.000.1	Professional Tech Svcs	\$5,000.00	\$71.80	\$5,910.60	(\$910.60)	\$1,094.40	(\$2,005.00)	-40.10%
0100.0000.340.00.000.1	Legal/Audit/Consult Svcs	\$159,704.00	\$5,584.87	\$103,115.94	\$56,588.06	\$37,693.60	\$18,894.46	11.83%
0100.0000.350.00.000.1	Tech Services	\$345,628.00	\$12,531.26	\$219,279.98	\$126,348.02	\$20,670.37	\$105,677.65	30.58%
0100.0000.410.00.000.1	Sewer/Water	\$35,666.00	\$0.00	\$35,666.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
0100.0000.420.00.000.1	Cleaning/Rubbish Services	\$104,975.00	\$6,316.54	\$46,152.37	\$58,822.63	\$29,661.52	\$29,161.11	27.78%
0100.0000.430.00.000.1	Repair and Maint Svcs (Facil)	\$208,207.00	\$44,920.84	\$170,258.77	\$37,948.23	\$53,850.16	(\$15,901.93)	-7.64%
0100.0000.440.00.000.1	Rentals	\$128,396.00	\$5,356.97	\$65,173.40	\$63,222.60	\$59,805.17	\$3,417.43	2.66%
0100.0000.510.00.000.1	Student Transp Svcs	\$2,139,549.00	\$659,350.31	\$1,774,092.47	\$365,456.53	\$433,524.63	(\$68,068.10)	-3.18%
0100.0000.520.00.000.1	Property/Liability Insurance	\$175,801.00	\$0.00	\$137,414.28	\$38,386.72	\$40,114.00	(\$1,727.28)	-0.98%
0100.0000.530.00.000.1	Telephone/ Postage	\$43,192.00	\$2,642.20	\$25,651.92	\$17,540.08	\$15,925.35	\$1,614.73	3.74%
0100.0000.540.00.000.1	Advertising	\$2,865.00	\$0.00	\$2,167.00	\$698.00	\$0.00	\$698.00	24.36%
0100.0000.550.00.000.1	Printing and Binding	\$25,235.00	\$735.50	\$12,793.44	\$12,441.56	\$6,840.00	\$5,601.56	22.20%
0100.0000.560.00.000.1	Tuition Educ Agency	\$2,308,137.00	(\$518,783.33)	\$1,254,074.14	\$1,052,062.86	\$1,178,487.60	(\$126,424.74)	-5.48%
0100.0000.580.00.000.1	Travel and Conference	\$24,326.00	\$1,055.64	\$14,555.51	\$9,770.49	\$9,553.67	\$216.82	0.89%
0100.0000.590.00.000.1	Safety Officials / SRO	\$18,000.00	\$391.68	\$4,419.01	\$13,580.99	\$13,455.83	\$125.16	0.70%
0100.0000.600.00.000.1	General Supplies	\$131,273.00	\$7,513.25	\$140,110.94	(\$8,837.94)	\$35,175.27	(\$44,013.21)	-33.53%
0100.0000.610.00.000.1	Instr Supplies/Mat'ls	\$336,702.00	\$17,351.14	\$190,808.65	\$145,893.35	\$51,986.68	\$93,906.67	27.89%
0100.0000.620.00.000.1	Energy	\$1,615,258.00	\$25,289.37	\$1,491,540.48	\$123,717.52	\$120,737.52	\$2,980.00	0.18%
0100.0000.640.00.000.1	Textbooks	\$114,227.00	\$2,663.00	\$80,441.84	\$33,785.16	\$3,842.06	\$29,943.10	26.21%
0100.0000.650.00.000.1	Films and Videos Supl	\$1,650.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,650.00	\$0.00	\$1,650.00	100.00%
0100.0000.660.00.000.1	Computer Software	\$57,820.00	\$0.00	\$45,068.07	\$12,751.93	\$370.00	\$12,381.93	21.41%
0100.0000.690.00.000.1	Misc Supplies	\$51,913.00	\$671.62	\$31,051.95	\$20,861.05	\$14,763.71	\$6,097.34	11.75%
0100.0000.730.00.000.1	Equip Instruct - New	\$170,210.00	\$2,736.67	\$174,082.21	(\$3,872.21)	\$3,838.06	(\$7,710.27)	-4.53%
0100.0000.760.00.000.1	Equip - Spec Ed - Instr - New	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,247.13	(\$47.13)	\$0.00	(\$47.13)	-3.93%
0100.0000.810.00.000.1	Dues and Fees	\$51,467.00	\$380.00	\$49,514.00	\$1,953.00	\$3,354.99	(\$1,401.99)	-2.72%
0100.0000.890.00.000.1	Misc Expense	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$350.00	(\$350.00)	\$0.00	(\$350.00)	0.00%
Grand Total:		\$37,189,581.00	\$2,556,486.41	\$23,040,578.55	\$14,149,002.45	\$13,810,721.00	\$338,281.45	0.91%

End of Report

Estimates of Statutory Formula Grants for FY 2015, FY 2016, and FY 2017

Grantee	Non-Public School Pupil Transportation			Adult Education			Education Cost Sharing Grant		
	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Old Lyme	-	-	-	-	-	-	605,586	605,586	605,586
Old Saybrook	384	467	467	5,197	5,472	5,473	652,677	652,677	652,677
Orange	47	48	48	-	-	-	1,185,863	1,185,863	1,185,863
Oxford	-	-	-	1,292	1,227	1,227	4,677,464	4,677,464	4,677,464
Plainfield	-	-	-	108,862	110,321	110,333	15,600,016	15,600,016	15,600,016
Plainville	-	-	-	115,975	118,671	118,683	10,405,528	10,405,528	10,405,528
Plymouth	-	-	-	11,351	11,108	11,109	9,913,763	9,913,763	9,913,763
Pomfret	-	-	-	5,560	5,494	5,494	3,136,587	3,136,587	3,136,587
Portland	-	-	-	11,494	10,818	10,819	4,394,272	4,394,272	4,394,272
Preston	-	-	-	20,085	20,580	20,582	3,077,693	3,077,693	3,077,693
Prospect	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,405,931	5,405,931	5,405,931
Putnam	2,038	2,184	2,184	65,449	68,911	68,919	8,471,318	8,471,318	8,471,318
Redding	-	-	-	489	527	527	687,733	687,733	687,733
Ridgefield	-	-	-	720	527	527	2,063,814	2,063,814	2,063,814
Rocky Hill	-	-	-	12,233	11,116	11,117	3,587,753	3,587,753	3,587,753
Roxbury	-	-	-	-	-	-	158,114	158,114	158,114
Salem	-	-	-	3,195	4,000	4,000	3,114,216	3,114,216	3,114,216
Salisbury	-	-	-	-	-	-	187,266	187,266	187,266
Scotland	-	-	-	1,740	1,764	1,764	1,450,663	1,450,663	1,450,663
Seymour	-	-	-	70,206	71,869	71,877	10,072,953	10,072,953	10,072,953
Sharon	-	-	-	-	-	-	145,798	145,798	145,798
Shelton	16,529	15,979	15,979	37,955	36,848	36,852	5,286,265	5,286,265	5,286,265
Sherman	-	-	-	254	242	242	244,327	244,327	244,327
Simsbury	8,098	8,255	8,255	10,323	10,396	10,398	5,633,072	5,633,072	5,633,072
Somers	-	-	-	10,642	10,299	10,301	6,024,473	6,024,473	6,024,473
Southbury	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,631,384	2,631,384	2,631,384
Southington	47,117	49,827	49,827	10,802	13,721	13,722	20,361,334	20,361,334	20,361,334
South Windsor	-	-	-	12,631	12,561	12,562	13,071,926	13,071,926	13,071,926
Sprague	-	-	-	15,504	14,437	14,439	2,641,208	2,641,208	2,641,208
Stafford	27,017	27,755	27,755	25,334	25,688	25,690	9,958,369	9,958,369	9,958,369
Stamford	70,551	71,917	71,917	306,592	308,746	308,779	10,605,319	10,605,319	10,605,319
Sterling	-	-	-	11,026	11,029	11,030	3,231,103	3,231,103	3,231,103
Stonington	2,592	2,992	2,992	15,357	16,425	16,427	2,079,926	2,079,926	2,079,926
Stratford	102,887	104,878	104,878	110,880	114,286	114,298	21,391,105	21,391,105	21,391,105
Suffield	-	-	-	7,029	7,797	7,798	6,267,018	6,267,018	6,267,018
Thomaston	-	-	-	15,453	14,875	14,877	5,737,258	5,737,258	5,737,258
Thompson	4,593	4,644	4,644	50,323	50,330	50,335	7,682,218	7,682,218	7,682,218
Tolland	-	-	-	9,209	8,833	8,833	10,902,485	10,902,485	10,902,485
Torrington	34,013	34,672	34,672	127,674	128,566	128,580	24,565,539	24,565,539	24,565,539
Trumbull	18,415	19,631	19,631	14,927	16,012	16,014	3,310,992	3,310,992	3,310,992
Union	-	-	-	1,474	1,730	1,731	241,791	241,791	241,791
Vernon	-	-	-	232,056	233,676	233,700	19,650,126	19,650,126	19,650,126
Voluntown	-	-	-	7,509	7,808	7,809	2,550,166	2,550,166	2,550,166
Wallingford	23,406	22,970	22,970	283,503	276,822	276,852	21,769,831	21,769,831	21,769,831
Warren	-	-	-	-	-	-	99,777	99,777	99,777
Washington	-	-	-	-	-	-	240,147	240,147	240,147
Waterbury	348,811	355,564	355,564	1,955,173	1,978,448	1,978,658	132,732,623	132,732,623	132,732,623
Waterford	-	-	-	12,252	11,982	11,983	1,485,842	1,485,842	1,485,842
Watertown	33,022	35,853	35,853	4,671	4,963	4,964	11,951,602	11,951,602	11,951,602
Westbrook	-	-	-	1,732	1,803	1,803	427,677	427,677	427,677
West Hartford	99,928	67,405	67,405	133,005	97,688	97,699	18,181,174	18,181,174	18,181,174
West Haven	138,276	138,982	138,982	210,291	209,151	209,173	45,496,942	45,496,942	45,496,942
Weston	-	-	-	427	430	430	948,564	948,564	948,564

TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hicks Municipal Center
Council Chambers
Tolland, CT 06084

REGULAR MEETING – February 25, 2015

Members Present: Mr. Sam Adlerstein, Chair; Mr. Patrick Doyle, Vice Chair; Ms. Kathy Gorsky, Secretary; Ms. Karen Moran, Ms. Colleen Yudichak, Mr. Joe Sce, and Mr. Tom Frattaroli.

Administrators Present: Dr. Walter Willett, Superintendent of Schools

A. **CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Item F.4 was addressed first.

B. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Regular Meeting – February 11, 2015

Edit to minutes: under item F.3, 3rd paragraph, in the 3rd and 4th sentences, “esteem” should be, “STEAM”. Mr. Doyle motioned to approve the minutes of the February 11th meeting with the changes noted. Ms. Gorsky seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

C. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Charmaine Navikonis, a resident of Tolland, expressed concern regarding the THS evacuation that took place on February 13th. Her daughter is a senior at the high school. She received a very concerning phone call that her daughter could not feel her legs. It was devastating to have this happen and Ms. Navikonis stated that she was furious. It is the 4th time this has occurred and still there is no backup plan in place and nothing has changed. It is not just about her daughter but others as well. Right now, students would still have to walk ¾ of a mile in temperatures of -20 degree wind chill. It was the day before Valentine’s Day and her daughter was wearing a dress with open-toed shoes. She was told by the principal that this was the best that could be done. It is unacceptable. If this is the best that can be done then there is a problem. Since Friday, nothing has changed and she was told that the children will walk and she does not want any child to walk in this weather. She commented that the students were taken out of a dangerous environment and put into another one; that it is reckless endangerment. Additionally, on the news, the school said that 5 buses were brought to the school and that the students who did not take the bus opted not to do so. Ms. Navikonis said this was not true and sought out how she could communicate her concerns to the state. She was referred to the state representatives but she does not believe her best interests will be served because the state representatives work with the Board. She is hugely disappointed that she left a message with Representative Guglielmo’s office but did not hear back. She suggested that the buses be parked at THS and asked why there are so many problems with pipes bursting at the high school. Her child has walked in the rain with the others and this is very dangerous. She asked that the budget include something to address this immediately. She appreciates Dr. Willett and knows his heart is in the right place but added that blankets are not going to help. Buses are needed and other schools have them. She added that children should not be told to get out of

their cars and told to walk. It is unacceptable. Lastly, she thanked everyone who helped her daughter including a student who gave his shoes to her daughter and walked in only his socks.

D. POINTS OF INFORMATION

Mr. Adlerstein asked about Ms. Navikonis' daughter. Ms. Navikonis replied that her daughter was ok but that the insecurity is huge. She has told her daughter that when it comes to safety that she is allowed to do what is in her best interest.

Dr. Willett thanked Ms. Navikonis for coming to the meeting and deeply appreciates her feeling on this matter. It was a cold day and he knows that her daughter had a rough time that day and apologized for that. Dr. Willett recapped the incident that took place on February 13th. A heating/cooling return line at THS ruptured. It sent water and cooling fluid onto electrical wires causing them to spark. At this time, it appeared that there was smoke but in fact it was steam. The steam was near the vents. Public safety and the fire department were called and ordered the evacuation of the building based on concerns of a chemical fire and fumes which could travel through the ventilation system and into the school. The school was evacuated. The EMTs and fire department responded and multiple departments including transportation and food services were mobilized. Four buses were dispatched. Public safety and the state police shut the roads so the emergency vehicles could access the school. In turn, the buses were unable to make it all the way up to the school and students were given the option of boarding the buses where they were positioned. Many did but others did not. Mobilizing 27 buses would take longer than moving the students on foot from one building to another. Waiting for 27 buses to arrive and board the student would have taken at least 20 minutes and they were able to get the students to a secure location in less time. This was the rationale that was used.

Mr. Adlerstein asked Dr. Willett how these situations are evaluated. Dr. Willett responded that they are in the process of working with the fire chief and discussing getting thermal blankets. The blankets would be in go-bags carried by the sweepers and made available for students in need. Thus far, there have been four debriefing meetings and they will continue to follow up with public safety to review the evacuation. Safety meetings are held on a regular basis year round. There will always be a situation where human decisions have to be made like the other day. In the case of the incident on February 13th, the decision to move the students to the middle school was the best option at that time. Discussions are taking place with safety and transportation officials regarding how buses could be dispatched, allowed through by public safety, and made available more quickly. They are working on having 5 buses mobilized at each TIS, TMS, and THS. They would like to have 10 buses at Birch Grove since there is not another building in close proximity to that school.

Mr. Sce inquired why they could not have just shut down the ventilation system. Dr. Willett explained that a number of systems needed to be shut down including the electric and the generator. Even with the ventilation system shut down, fumes could have traveled. Dr. Willett explained that the fear was that there was a fire with a chemical element and they reacted to what they believed to be a fire.

Mr. Perosino commented that the buses were closer to TMS than THS and the students who did board the buses arrived later than those who walked. This is one reason students chose not to board the buses. Some students were in their cars but were told they could not remain in them. Dr. Willett explained that allowing students to stay in their cars creates a diffused situation.

Officials were unsure of the situation and there could have been explosions or other dangers. The staff must keep all students together. Additionally, it would complicate traffic if multiple vehicles were trying to leave when emergency vehicles needed to access the area.

Mr. Doyle noted that in September, there was a group of safety officials, staff, and parents who met. Dr. Willett noted that the regular safety meetings that are held are all part of this same effort. Public safety plays a huge role in reviewing and updating the emergency procedures. Ms. Gorsky inquired if there is an outbuilding where the go-bags with the blankets could be stored. Dr. Willett explained that in such a location the bags would be contaminated. Due to security measures, students are not allowed to wear big, bulky jackets. This is why they are discussing thermal blankets. Mr. Sce confirmed that options and processes are being reviewed to see what can be done.

E. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Perosino noted that a Freshman/Sophomore Dance was scheduled to be held on Friday but it has been cancelled. He is unsure why. Additionally, the school musical, Back to the 80s, will be held on March 13th and 14th at 7PM.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

F.1. Update on Security Grant (no enclosure)

Dr. Willett will submit the document on February 26th to the state.

F.2. Tolland High School Evacuation – Friday, February 13, 2015 (no enclosure)

Mr. Connelly wrote a memo regarding the financial and physical aspects of the incident at THS on February 13th. It was distributed to the Board members for review. It is estimated that there was a \$100K impact (\$5K deductible) but there may still be other items that will need to be included. Dr. Willett noted that Mr. Chris Wardrop was very responsive and of great assistance.

F.3. Goals – Goal Setting (no enclosure)

Dr. Willett requested the Board's feedback on where it would like him to focus. Mr. Adlerstein explained that by necessity, the budget came before goals could be set and recommended reviewing the budget for the goals. Dr. Willett did a great job of putting a vision into the budget and Mr. Adlerstein would like these items to be pulled out and noted in a separate document of goals for the next 18 months. Dr. Willett requested that the Board members (and subcommittees) communicate what they would like to see in the document. Ms. Moran requested Dr. Willett's feedback as well in regard to the subcommittees. Additionally, Mr. Adlerstein would like risk management in the context of tonight's discussions to be one of the goals. It is not about putting safety above all else – then it would not be risk management, but how does one find a balance and assess the risks and safety of all schools so that kids do not need to worry about safety. How can this be achieved and maintained? He added that this is a broad-reaching goal that would involve people outside of the school system.

F.4. Recognition of Girls Indoor Track for Winning the State Open

The Board congratulated and recognized the student athletes and coaches of the Girls Indoor Track Team for winning the State Open. Assistant Coach Corey Pusey accepted the certificate for Head Coach Corey Bernier in his absence. The student athletes were

also presented with certificates: Courtney Akerley, Brooke Bonadies, Marissa Aioldi, Breann Campise, Hayley Collins, Katherine DeLoreto, Pheonix Grover, Alyssa Hurlbut, Jennifer Jacobs, Karissa Laramie, Laura Mlodzinski, Marissa Paolangini, Taylor Papa, Sidney Perryman, Jennifer Slane, Julia Sprout, Caitlin Swanson, and Kelsey Swanson.

Dr. Willett commended the team and highlighted how proud their Town and families are of them. As a parent, this is something that is always remembered. It is an honor that the students will have for the rest of their lives and an amazing achievement. The team is an inspiration for everyone at TMS and the elementary schools. The Board is very proud and thankful that the team came out to accept the awards.

Mr. Adlerstein noted that it is a moment to savor. He asked the students to think about 2 years from now and what they would remember about the team and the meet. The team captains commented that they would take the friendships and memories with them. They thanked their teammates and noted that it could not have been done without everyone. Coach Pusey explained that at the meet on Saturday, they did not expect to win but no matter how much they are down, they keep fighting. The team is a close knit group. They cheer for each other and the parents are faithful and devoted to the team.

Ms. Moran thanked the team for their exceptional representation of THS and Tolland as a community. She thanked the parents for carpooling and cheering from the sidelines – the parents are part of the team too.

Mr. Adlerstein noted that the athletes inspire the Board not only by their achievements but also by whom they are and how well they represented the Town.

G. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Finance and Facilities – Mr. Doyle noted that in regard to the SRO position, he expects to have the information requested by mid-March and will bring the results of the conversations back to the Board. Additionally, the goals referenced in item F.3 will be discussed.

Communications – The next meeting is scheduled for March 4th at 6PM.

Website Task Force – Ms. Moran noted that they had a virtual meeting with SharpSchool where they were able to ask questions, build a timeline, and review content. Another meeting will be scheduled.

Town Council – Ms. Moran noted that the state representatives were in attendance. The governor's proposed budget was discussed with a focus on the funding of resident state troopers. Mr. Adlerstein added that the Town Council Chair complemented the Board for its representation at the meetings and thanked Mr. Clark and Ms. Moran for their attendance. Ms. Moran added that the Board is also grateful for Town Council liaisons Jan Rubino and Paul Krasusky for attending the Board's meetings.

Policy – The next meeting is scheduled for March 4th at 4PM.

Negotiation – none

CABE – Ms. Yudichak noted that the CABE, A Day on the Hill event is coming up soon and that some of the Board members will be in attendance.

H. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Adlerstein noted that this is the budget season. Last year, dozens of people came out to speak about what they wanted and it impacted what this year's budget. The public voice has not been as loud this year but the budget still has a long way to go and encouraged support. A joint meeting of the Board and the Town Council is scheduled for March 3rd.

I. BOARD ACTION - none

J. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Charmaine Navikonis, a resident of Tolland, commented that she appreciates that she was able to speak and feels that she was heard. She came because she loves her daughter, the school system, and the Town. To Dr. Willett, she appreciates everything he has done since he took over as the Superintendent. He has been attentive through this and kind. She commented that buses should be available at the schools and someone should be trained to start them and get them heated up. She expressed concern that the bus situation is not efficient.

K. POINTS OF INFORMATION

Mr. Doyle commented that public participation is a way for the public to be heard by those who set policy and make decisions. On the Board's website, there is contact information so that the public can correspond with the Board via e-mail as well.

L. CORRESPONDENCE

- Town Council Meeting – February 10, 2015

M. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Goals

N. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Gorsky motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:58PM. Mr. Sce seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Pascuzzi
Clerk

MEETING MINUTES

TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL HICKS MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER 6th FLOOR COUNCIL ROOM FEBRUARY 24, 2015 – 7:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: George Baker, Vice-Chair; William Eccles; Richard Field and Jan Rubino

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jack Scavone, Paul Krasusky and Ben Stanford

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Wilkinson, Director of Administrative Services; Lisa Hancock, Director of Finance and Records; State Senator Tony Guglielmo; State Representative Sam Belsito; State Representative Tim Ackert, Randy Collins, Jr., Connecticut Conference of Municipalities; John Littell, Fire Chief/Director of Public Safety; Doug Racicot, Asst. Director of Public Safety/Asst. Fire Chief

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** George Baker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited.
3. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Observed.
4. **PROCLAMATIONS:** 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:** None.
- 7a. **REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE TO THE COUNCIL:** Karen Moran, BOE: She recognized the 39 volunteers that assisted with clearing the snow off the school roofs. The Country Butcher donated lunch for everyone that day, CNC Software helped with labor and machinery and Brookside Gardens also assisted. It was an awesome turn out. She is looking forward to the joint meeting with the Council next week.
- 7b. **REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL LIAISONS:** Jan Rubino, BOE: The BOE passed their budget last week. Dr. Willett came out with a phenomenal statement at the beginning of the meeting. She referred the public to the BOE's minutes. Ms. Rubino said Dr. Willett presented the budget in an understandable way. It is an amazing year for us. The BOE voted to allow Dr. Willett to shorten the school calendar by three days, should he need to do so. Rick Field, Water Commission: They have a positive cash flow, and things are looking better for them. Rick Field, PCC: They are in the midst of planning the parade. George Baker, PZC: They approved drive-thru's for the Field Stone Commons area (the area from the bridge to Goose Lane). This does not include Dunkin Donuts.
8. **NEW BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):**
 - 8.1 Discussion on legislative concerns with State Legislators and representatives from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM).

State Senator Tony Guglielmo, State Representative Sam Belsito and State Representative Tim Ackert were present at the meeting.

Mr. Ackert said they are hearing a lot about energy rates and the move for high speed internet (the gigabyte movement). The Governor's budget is just a map of where we can go. It is not set in stone. The Legislature is going to dictate what will happen in the budget. One issue for Tolland is the resident state troopers. The State is looking to shed all of the costs onto the towns. The costs of benefits and salaries for the troopers are in play right now. As of now, the state pays 30% and Tolland pays 70%. They are looking for the towns to pay 100%. Mr. Ackert said those with state troopers in their town, are not the only ones to benefit. You share them with other towns as needed. So the share should go across the board by the percentage of time they are in your town. It should not just be borne on one community. It should be shared. Ms. Rubino asked what the benefit is of having a trooper program when you have resident troopers in the community. Mr. Guglielmo said Tolland definitely gets ancillary protection, although it is a hard question to answer. Mr. Belsito said the salary is going to go way up if the town has to take over from 70% to 100%, plus all the fringes. He said he did propose a bill that says when the trooper leaves the town to go onto the highway, or into another town to help out, the town should get reimbursed for the time the trooper is out of Tolland. Mr. Belsito said Tolland may need to cut back to three troopers (from five). Mr. Guglielmo said this is not a done deal yet. He asked that someone gather the numbers showing how much time the troopers are actually out of the Town of Tolland.

Mr. Ackert said we need to stop being so optimistic over our revenues. Mr. Guglielmo said they need to reign in their wants. Mr. Guglielmo spoke about the events slated for Hartford, The Rock Cats, the new stadium, and the renovations to the XL Center. This type of stuff needs to stop. Mr. Ackert agreed that it does need to stop, and they need to look at the needs. Mr. Belsito said there is no limit to stopping them. We are on the road to destroying ourselves. Mr. Guglielmo said we do have problems, but they can be reversed with some common sense.

Mr. Collins works very closely with Tolland's delegates. Municipal aid has been flat funded, although Tolland may see some slight variations in the money that it gets. Tolland's overall number is short \$5,911 from last year. The Governor offered no form of mandate relief. There are over 1,200 state mandates, and they are constantly fighting new ones. The car tax proposal is still out there. This will create a situation of winners and losers. The car tax is one of the few revenue streams that towns have. He closed by saying they are here for the town. With this budget and where we are, he doesn't think it can get much better for municipalities; it can get a lot worse. It is going to be a long haul for all the municipalities.

8.2 Consideration and action authorizing the renewal of an agreement with American Medical Response (AMR) for Advanced Life Support (ALS) services for the period of January 01, 2015 through December 31, 2020.

Mr. Racicot said this is a requirement as a result of Medicare and Medicaid. Tolland has had an agreement with AMR since 2002 for bundle billing. There has not been rate increase in the last 13 years. They have been in active negotiations for the last 2 – 3 years. They are anticipating a \$55,000 increase annually, depending upon call volume. This year, they are anticipating a \$23,000 rate increase for the second half of this fiscal year. The downside is that it draws off of the ambulance revenue. So, the town manager has recommended looking at the \$55,000 contribution and reinvesting it to pay for this rate increase. A copy of the contract was provided to the Council members. As a community, it is advantageous to do the bundle billing agreement. This approach has been very successful, and has eliminated confusion and complaints.

Rick Field motioned to accept the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that Steven R. Werbner, Town Manager is hereby authorized to sign the Agreement for Advanced Life Support Services for the five year period of January 01, 2015 through December 31, 2020.

Seconded by Jan Rubino. All in favor. None opposed.

8.3 Approval of Emergency Plan for Registrars Operation.

Mr. Littell said this is required at the state level for Emergency Operations Plans. They made it consistent and kept things standardize. This plan is workable for our community. The Registrar of Voters, Town Manager, State Police, Public Works and Fire Marshall's office were all involved. They have been working on this for the last 1 ½ - 2 years. A checklist is in place. It will become Annex O to the Town's Emergency Operations Plan.

Rick Field motioned to accept the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Tolland Town Council approves the Election Emergency Plan as Annex O of the Town's Emergency Operations Plan.

Seconded by Jan Rubino. All in favor. None opposed.

8.4 Appointments to vacancies on various municipal boards/commissions: No appointments.

9. OLD BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS): None.

10. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER (A WRITTEN REPORT SHALL BE PROVIDED THE 1ST MEETING OF THE MONTH ONLY): None.

11. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

11.1 February 10, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes: No quorum present, this item was tabled.

12. CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNCIL: None.

13. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILPERSONS: None.

14. PUBLIC LISTED PARTICIPATION (on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council) (3 minute limit): None.

15. ADJOURNMENT: Rick Field moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Bill Eccles at 8:33 p.m. All were in favor.

George Baker, Vice-Chair

Michelle A. Finnegan
Town Council Clerk