

**BOARD OF FINANCE  
SPECIAL MEETING – February 21, 2018  
WHS Professional Library**

**RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
TOWN OF WILTON**

**PRESENT:** Jeff Rutishauser, Richard Creeth, John Kalamarides, Stewart Koenigsberg

**ABSENT:** Walter Kress, Peter Balderston

**Others Present:** Board of Education, Anne Kelly-Lenz, CFO

**2018 FEB 23 P 3:07**

**BY:** 

**Call to Order**

Chairman Jeff Rutishauser called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

**Comments Prior to Budget Discussion**

BOE Chairman Christine Finkelstein opened the discussion with general comments regarding the prior meeting and wanted the BOF to know that they too represented the taxpayer in providing educational services to the town

**FY19 Budget Discussion**

The remaining time was spent discussing various topics of the FY19 Budget:

- Future Staffing being shown as flat in budget projections
- Budgeted spending on conferences and consultants
- Training costs of SPED professionals
- Contract Services – discussion of what it is and cost included
- Purchase of books – being library (media center), not classroom books
- Administrative numbers – whether they are being looked at as the enrollment declines
- Cost and value of instructional coaching
- Feasibility to raising Participation Fees to add revenue

**Statement and Questions by John Kalamarides**

John explained to the boards his recent visit to Cider Mill hosted by Dr. Jennifer Mitchell and other CM leaders. He was impressed by the team approach being taught and the positive comments by both teachers and coaches on the coaching program. Concluding, he said that Cider Mill is doing an outstanding job and maybe other members of the Board of Finance should do the same to see what great things are going in in the schools.

He asked two questions. First, if there were hypothetically to be cuts in the budget, where would they be and second, what was being done about improving the recent disappointing CT statewide rankings of Wilton Schools, who are a 80.5 rating where New Canaan is at the top of the DRG-A at 89 rating.

Dr. Smith responded that any further cuts would come out of programs currently being offered, for example, World Languages at the middle school level. Obviously that would not be good and would lead to a degradation of the school quality, maybe not immediately but certainly in the following years.

***Minutes have not been reviewed by this Board and may be subject to revision in future minutes.***

On the topic of scoring, after explaining what the CT-wide testing is, Dr. Smith said that a few of the categories contributed to Wilton's lower overall score, especially the wide disparity between non-SPED and SPED student achievement scores and that the remedy was to improve the SPED scores to close this gap.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Rutishauser