

**Town of Colebrook  
Board of Finance**

**Minutes to Meeting of February 8, 2017**

**Members Present**

J. Millar, Chairman  
R. Carfiro  
D. Johnstone  
M. Klimkosky  
M. Neal

**Absent**

T. Corvo

**Others Present**

D. Thibodeau  
E. Klimkosky  
A. Choquette

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman J. Millar.

1. Danuta Thibodeau, the school's new superintendent, was introduced to the Board and then presented the Board of Education's 2017-18 budget proposal. The proposed budget of \$1,941,598, is a net increase of \$34,755, or 1.8%, over 2016-17.
2. The principal increases are \$23,155 and \$15,700 for medical insurance and paraprofessionals, respectively. Two additional employees will take benefits next year: one a new hire who replaces a teacher that did not take benefits, and the second a long term employee who had not taken benefits before. The large increase for paraprofessionals will bring their salaries more in line with other towns and prevent them from slipping below expected increases to the minimum wage. The budget increases are partially offset by decreases to several of the line items for special education and tuition at magnet schools.
3. Questions regarding the Board of Education's budget should be e-mailed to J. Millar, [millar06021@charter.net](mailto:millar06021@charter.net), and D. Thibodeau, [dthibodeau@colebrookschool.org](mailto:dthibodeau@colebrookschool.org), for discussion at the Board of Finance meeting next week.
4. Also discussed was Governor Malloy's 2017-18 budget proposal for the State of Connecticut, just released that day. If passed, his proposal will reduce the amount of state aid given to Colebrook by \$351,482, or 47.9%, and will require an offsetting tax increase of nearly two full mills. Ominously, the Governor's proposal shifts a third of the cost of the teachers' pension plan to the towns. These costs are beyond the control of the towns, and, according to the CT Mirror, are "set to skyrocket over the next 15 years."
5. Handouts about the Capital Improvement Plan and the 2017-18 tax abatement for the Volunteer Fire Department were distributed for discussion next week.
6. R. Carfiro moved to accept the minutes of February 1, 2017. Second, M. Klimkosky. Passed unanimously.
7. M. Neal moved to adjourn. Second, M. Klimkosky. Passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha F. Neal  
Secretary