

**COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION
FISCAL COMMITTEE**

The Fiscal Committee met on July 17, 2008 at 6:35 p.m. In attendance were Michael Whitham, Mary Kortmann, Larry Pietrantonio, Judith Richard, Dr. Bernard and Sherry Holmes.

The Expenditure Report for June 30, 2008 was reviewed. As of this date, the report indicates a shortfall of \$51,250.97. I have not yet received final June bills for legal fees, telephone and utilities. I anticipate receiving those bills by July 31, 2008.

Judith Richard discussed the Special Education overages. She handed out a copy of the CT Gen. Statute 10-184 to the committee which states the local or regional boards of education will provide transportation to and from the residence of the special needs child. She proceeded to discuss the Eastconn contract with Coventry Public Schools for special education transportation and the per diem rates for 2007-2008 that they are allowed to charge for in-district and out-of-district transportation. She highlighted a few of them for the committee's review, for example to transport a student to CREC Coltsville – extended day the charge will be \$210 per day and with an aide present an additional \$80 per day.

Judith Richard went on to say what led us to the overall shortfall of \$51,250.97 was special education transportation. She handed a copy of the budget sheet for account #1000.50.510.2700 to the committee for discussion. For one student attending CREC River Street School the transportation cost was budgeted at \$18,900.00. The actual amount expended was \$36,345.00 leaving a shortfall of \$17,445.00. For the other student attending CREC Coltsville, the transportation cost was budgeted at \$29,993.00. Actual amount expended was \$62,005.00 leaving a shortfall of \$32,012.00. This student required an aide to be on the van which is an additional charge. In April, a student needed to be transported to Community Child Guidance in Manchester at the cost of \$3,850 to the district. Thus bringing the total of the shortfall to \$53,307.00 in the special education student transportation account. If these unanticipated special education costs did not take place, then there would have been enough funds to cover the special education tuition bills and balance the bottom line of the budget for 2007-2008.

A draft of the preliminary budget transfers recommended to the fiscal committee was handed out and discussed.

Dr. Bernard gave the fiscal committee a copy of the Board of Education letter to the Town Manager formally requesting the necessary funds close to \$52,000.00 to cover the special education budget shortfall. She noted that the Board of Education budget shortfall issue was placed on the Town Council agenda for the August 18th meeting.

Larry Pietrantonio called for a vote from the fiscal committee to move forward as discussed to seek help from the Town Council for the budget shortfall of \$51,250.97. The vote was 2 to 1. Cheryl Trudon was absent.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Sherry Holmes
Fiscal Services Director