

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Business Operations/Resource Management Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: BO/RM Meeting type: Regular
Date of Meeting: 3/16/23 Minutes submitted by: K. LaTourette
Members present: Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kim LaTourette, Ed Sbordone
Members absent:
Other attendees: Carrie DePuy, Phil Ross, Wes Marsh
Place of meeting: Meeting Access: BO/RM Subcommittee (3/16/23 at 6:00 p.m.) Web:
<https://zoom.us/j/92766597336> Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 927 6659 7336
Meeting called to order: at 6 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. February 16, 2023 – Regular - Minutes are approved by consensus. All in favor.

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Monthly Summary of Budget vs. Actual Expenditure/Encumbrances

Report for FY 2022-23 at February 28, 2023 - Carrie DePuy broke out the SPED contingency to show that it is being applied (line 29). We have a \$300 deficit there. Last time she was projecting a larger deficit, which she thinks she will be able to mitigate on the payroll side (building subs that were not able to be filled). We just received a \$15,000 SEDS grant to go towards office support and another grant for heating utilities. We may receive \$1,500,000 more than budgeted. She will go to BOF to get that. That grant's first installment just came (\$490 excess cost) and the second installment should be in June. E-Finance will need to be updated; however, we have funds that can be used to offset that. Carrie is going to do everything she can to come out flat and not have a deficit. We have been lucky with oil. We have about 12,000 gallons remaining. From March until June last year we used 23,000 gallons, so we may need to purchase more. Wes Marsh asked to clarify how the excess costs can be used. It must be used for SPED only.

B. Summary of Budget vs. Projected Year-End Expenditure/ Encumbrances

Report for FY 2022-23 at February 28, 2023

C. Building Project Update - There was a discussion about reporting on the building projects once a month instead of bi-weekly unless something comes up. The new gym at the HS looks amazing! Abatement is scheduled for the auditorium during spring break and the house on Gillotti Road will be taken down by Easter as well. We do not have bids for the demolition of the old Consolidated School yet. That may not happen until the fall. We are at a 38.22% reimbursement rate for the new Consolidated School. The High School is at 26.93%; it was 28.22%. We are working with the state to stay at 28.22%. We have a good shot due to sharing the auditorium with the MS. The shared space should help.

IV. ACTION ITEMS – none

V. OTHER - Capital Plan - Phil Ross joined in at the meeting. Our capital budget and plans do not work; they have not worked. The old Consolidated School shows what happens when we are not able to maintain a capital budget (not being critical of anyone). The BOE has to carry those dollars within its budget, that then gets reduced, and then we are faced with the choice of educating kids or putting a roof on the building. Most of the time we choose the kids and not the roof. Phil is concerned about the Middle School. It is 28 years old, and the roof warrantee ran out

8 years ago. The High School gym, pool and cafeteria remain and will be part of the Middle School. Some are older than the Middle School, some are newer. There is not enough money, soon enough, to seriously begin doing capital work on the Middle School. Phil suggests meeting with BOF and recommends not putting money into the Middle School, but renovating as new, once the debt service is at a place to do that. Phil feels obligated to bring this point to everyone's attention. If we continue to keep cutting capital, we will lose another year, and Consolidated School is an example; the roof leaks infiltrated the building and is into classrooms now. Ed Sbordone agreed at taking a look at the renovate as new option. We keep trying to put money aside for the roof project and that money keeps being cut out. Phil mentioned replacing systems one at a time, at the proper time. Phil has been funded to maintain and repair. That is what has gotten our Middle School systems to 28 years, but he is not sure it will go past 30 years. We need to have a plan in place before then. We will need to get some numbers to look at. Ed asked how that process can begin. Phil recommended a community discussion with the BOE and BOF. Facility assessments can be done to get preliminary numbers. When we look at the 23/24 request, the oil tank is on there, and it needs to be replaced by 2025. That is half the amount of what that project may cost based on most recent estimate we received. If we have to take that money out, we will have to find twice the \$317,470 the following year. The \$317,470 dates back a year or two ago and was not vetted by a construction company. The numbers have certainly escalated over the last couple of years. This is an estimate, not a bid number. We have never been in the situation where we have violated the state, so Phil is unsure of what may happen if we do. He mentioned that usually if there is a plan in place, they may work with us, but that is not for sure. We have done maintenance on the tank and done all of the testing that we need to. Another item Ed brought up is being able to insure the tank. The community has been so supportive of the new projects. Our leaders need to plan for the MS and MHHS down the road as well. If Phil knew he had a renovate as new project in a few years, he would maintain and repair to last that long. He would keep everything functional and safe. The district capital plan will be discussed at the regular meeting later tonight. A 5-year and 10-year plan will be presented to the BOF next Wednesday evening.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Greg Flanagan
Recording of vote: Aye – Unanimous

Seconded by: Ed Sbordone
Meeting adjourned at: 6:49 p.m.