

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

Name of Subcommittee: BO/RM Meeting type: Regular
Date of Meeting: 3/18/21 Minutes submitted by: K. LaTourette
Members present: Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Ed Sbordone
Members absent:
Other attendees: Patricia Cosentino, Rich Sanzo, Rick Regan,
Samantha Mannion, Kathy Baker, Peggy Katkocin, Stephanie Strazza
Place of meeting: BO/RM Subcommittee (3/18/21 at 6 p.m.) Web:<https://zoom.us/j/92285851838>
Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 922 8585 1838

Meeting called to order: at 6:06 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. February 18, 2021 – Regular

Motion: To approve minutes of the February 18, 2021, regular meeting as presented

Made by: Ed Sbordone

Seconded by: Kimberly LaTourette

Recording of vote: All in favor

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Monthly Summary of Budget vs. Actual Expenditure/Encumbrances Report for FY 2020-21 at February 28, 2021

The budget is 66.1% expended and encumbered and it is hard to compare to past years. Last year we had a higher percentage encumbered.

B. Summary of Budget vs. Projected Year-End Expenditure/ Encumbrances Report for FY 2020-21 at February 28, 2021

As we get further in the year and have more information, we see that we are moving in the right direction with the deficit. Dr. Sanzo believes it will continue to get better. Some of the utility bills are not in this report. We will not turn this into a positive, but we are doing ok.

Some of the changes from last time:

Technology: Still a positive, but a lower positive. We were notified about two months ago that our cyber security coverage would be ending. We sought quotes for cyber security, and we are locking in coverage to ensure that as that policy lapses with CIRMA. Karen Fildes and her team deserve a great deal of credit. We were rated in the 95% with how secure we are. Because of that, we received better pricing. It will be about \$17,000 to BOE and \$7,000 to the town. All of the money we have invested in technology infrastructure is paying off.

Finance: Continuing with e-Finance Plus. We are moving forward with electronic timecards instead of paper-based timecards.

Pupil Transportation: We have gotten our final adjustments and it was positive. We saved about \$40,000 for the days that our buses were not running. We pay a lower rate on those days.

Utility Accounts: We continue to monitor those. With colder/warmer weather, we may not spend as much as we had projected. Hopefully we will be moving towards warmer weather after this weekend!

Buildings and Grounds: now in deficit. We had an IEQ concern with Consolidated main office. This has been resolved by extending the chimney pipe from the boiler (unexpected cost). There

was a portion of supplies that are usually utilized by community activities (paper towels, etc.), that was not covered with building use this year.

Special Education Needs – We continue to monitor our students’ needs. We have an increase in outside evaluations occurring. These evaluations range in cost, averaging \$3000. The outplacement line has not dramatically changed, but we are watching it for a few students that may need additional services that were not originally planned for.

C. School Lunch Fund Update - We are running a deficit and will have to negotiate with Aramark. We have been trying to increase the meal counts. We tried providing breakfast to students at Consolidated. Kaycee has begun providing weekend meals. We are serving about 5000 meals each week. Now with adding weekend meals, we are seeing about 1000 more per week. Too early to see how it will impact the deficit, but we are happy that families are taking advantage of that. Kudos to Kaycee and her team!

D. COVID Related Relief Funds - This will be on the board agenda, but Dr. Sanzo wanted to review this. We have received four buckets of different money that supported our reopening. We are starting a discussion on how to use the next buckets for recovery.

Coronavirus Relief Funds - spent prior to December 31st for PPE, added staff, supplies for reopening.

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief - cleaning, technology, added staff.

ESSER II – almost \$900,000 (spent by September 2023)

ESSER III - \$2-3 million (spent by September 2023)

Some of the conversation we have heard from the BOF is can we use any of this to lower the budget increase for next year? It is not meant to pay for current programming but can be used to pay for some expenses that are COVID related. We may be able to fund some expenses through this grant. The students and teachers will get what they need, and the taxpayer will get some relief. We are including more one-time expenses so that we do not have additions to future budgets. We need to support the social-emotional needs of our students as part of this grant as well. We will be able to use the surplus appropriated to cover the deficit (COVID and SPED expenditures).

IV. ACTION ITEMS - none

V. OTHER - none

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Greg Flanagan

Recording of vote: Aye – Unanimous

Seconded by: Ed Sbordone

Meeting adjourned at: 6:43 p.m.