

DATE: September 29 2020
TIME: 6:00 PM
LOCATION: Via Google Meeting (Virtual)

MINUTES

Stratford Board of Education – Finance Committee



Attendee Names

Karen Rodia(Committee Chair), Allison DelBene (Committee Vice Chair), Andrea Corcoran, Janice Cupee, Bob DeLorenzo, Vinny Faggella, Amy Wiltsie, Ben Proto, Janet Robinson (Superintendent), Pam Mangini, Teresa Lycoudes (Recording Secretary), Bryan Darcy, Jack Dellapiano, Kevin Klemme, Heather Borges

Absent

Bob David, Bob DeLorenzo

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, Karen Rodia, at 6:00 PM. A quorum was confirmed. The meeting minutes from 8/24/2020 were accepted on a motion made by Mr. Faggella; seconded by Mrs. Corcoran, and passed unanimously. A roll call vote was taken.

Items for Possible Action and/or Discussion

Budget Summary Report 2019-2020

Expenditures: Mrs. Mangini began her report by stating her focus has been on categorizing items in regards to the financials.

2020-2021 Report -

Mrs. Managini reported that payroll encumbrances have not been done at this point primarily due to the fact of waiting for the school year to settle before moving forward.

Unemployment - Unemployment expenses continue to remain on the high side. Ms. Mangini stated a significant credit (mentioned at the 8/24/2020 meeting) has been received. With that being said, this remains an area of concern.

Professional Svc. - Ms. Mangini stated the pandemic created a lot of unprecedented needs especially in the area of Special Education. Additional Legal costs continue to surface. She said there's not a need for great concern at this point in time, but it is an area that will be closely monitored.

Non-Lapsing Account - Ms. Mangini reported she has been working closely with Chris Tymniac (Town of Stratford) in regards to the development of a Non-Lapsing Account. Based on discussions with the Town, review of CT State Statute 10-248a, and the proposed language of the Town's establishment of a Non-Lapsing Account, the Board of Education is unable to utilize the FY20 carryover funds for operating expenses. Upon confirmation of this information, a temporary spending freeze on discretionary accounts was implemented as the BOE budget now reflects a deficit of \$577,653. After careful review, adjustments to the budget are recommended to mitigate this deficit.

The recommended budget reductions / adjustments (see attached) were reviewed with the Committee. They could not be forwarded to the Board, at this time, due to the board meeting being a special meeting. The Board Chair requested the action to approve these recommendations be added to the October 26th Board Meeting Agenda.

A Roll Call Vote was taken: Motion passed unanimously

Grants have been used appropriately, and the district is in the process of writing new grants, etc.

The Coronavirus Relief Fund Grant is an award of \$1,681,647. She said there are restrictions and limitations on these funds. She said all expenses due to COVID-19 is being tracked and equipment has been purchased and dispensed appropriately. Face masks have also been supplied to Durham Transportation for student use, as well.

Utilities - Mrs. Mangini reported that utilities are being monitored. She informed the Committee that she will be meeting with DBS Energy consultants next week, along with Director of Facilities, Rich Ruggiero (who continues to work closely with Eric Bartone, DBS Energy, Inc.).

Mrs. Wiltsie asked if there were any updates on the possibility of consolidating with the Town of Stratford for energy.

Mrs. Mangini reported that she is working closely with the Town. She said the Town is looking for a Representative to help with solar; however, at present we are limited until we get on the same schedule. She said for gas and oil, we will continue to work closely with the Town.

SPED/Enrollment Reports: Director of Pupil Personnel Svc., Heather Borges, reported on the financial status of Special Education. She informed the Committee under the account of professional services, requests for IEE's and Risk Assessments have been higher than normal, and the money budgeted for that is under budget. SPED transportation is currently being tracked. Mrs. Borges stated that 100 students are currently outplaced with 6 additional placements pending. In addition, new legislation now dictates that special education students must be educated until the age of 22. With this being said, Mrs. Borges said she still believes the department is within budget, at this point in time.

Mrs. Borges also reported that a nonessential spending freeze has been implemented. Grant monies have been secured to supplement and help with the cost to transition to electronic supplies.

Budget Transfers: There were none.

Enrollment - October 1st will be the official state reported enrollment. To date, there have been 633 new registrations for the 2020-21 school year. Some schools are heavier in enrollment than others, and this is due to the return to neighborhood schools. Dr. Robinson stated that in the long run, she believes Bunnell and Stratford High Schools will be out of balance

Mr. DeLorenzo voiced his concern for tracking the number of students leaving the district. Dr. Robinson reported that the number of students leaving is tracked; however, there is a delay in tracking. It is up to the parents to notify the school, so therefore, the number we have is not an accurate current number. She explained this is a problem that all school districts are faced with, as well.

Waivers are not being granted at this time and this has been appropriately noted on the District website.

Adjournment: Hearing no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM. Motion: BP (Ben Proto) / VF(Vinny Faggella)

**SECRETARY
APPROVAL:**

(Signature & Date)

9.30.2020

