

**DATE:** December 21, 2020  
**TIME:** 6:30 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,Bob DeLorenzo, Vinny Faggella, Janet Robinson (Superintendent), Pam Mangini, Teresa Lycoudes (Recording Secretary), Kevin Klemme, Heather Borges

### Absent

Amy Wiltsie, Janice Cupee

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, Karen Rodia, at 6:30 PM. A quorum was confirmed. The meeting minutes from 11/23/2020 were accepted on a motion made by Mrs. DelBene; seconded by Mr. Faggella, and passed unanimously. A roll call vote was taken.

### Items for Possible Action and/or Discussion

#### Budget Summary Report 2020 - 2021

Chief Operating Officer, Pam Mangini, gave a brief financial overview of the period since the last meeting of November 23rd. Ms. Mangin said there are two areas of concerns, at present:

1. Special Education - There is an increase in special education tuition; however there could be some savings in the transportation accounts that may offset this expense. Another area of savings could stem from substitute teaching. All savings are due to the uncertainty we face each day with the coronavirus.
2. Unemployment - This cost remains to trend high. The CARES offset monies end at the end of the year (December 31, 2020).

Ms. Mangini stated that there are a number of variables ever changing and it is this constant changing of the numbers that make cause for concern. She added the budget will continue to be closely monitored.

Ms. Mangini stated another area of concern centered around the UI leases. She said normally the savings stemming from upgrading to LED lighting should offset leases; however, she believes the savings were applied to utility costs. Ms. Mangini is making the necessary changes to avoid this happening in the future.

**Grants** - Dr. Klemme reported on Grants accounting. The Grants Report was distributed to Committee members in the meeting packet. Dr. Klemme informed the committee members that approximately \$8.8 million in grants is reflected in the grants report. Highlighted areas include:

1. **Title I:** Dr. Klemme reported that all schools in the Stratford Public School system are deemed as Title I schools due to the ever changing demographics. Grant monies now can be distributed district wide.
2. **Coronavirus Relief Fund:** Dr. Klemme said approximately half the monies were expended by the first half of November 2020. Dr. Klemme said the district is working hard to draw down as much funds as possible within the limits and guidelines set by the State of Connecticut.

Dr. Klemme said all other grants are tracking on target. The report will be posted to the District website.

**Utilities** - Mrs. Mangini reported that utilities are tracking on budget at this point in time as normal. She said the heating costs are unknown at this point in time as we are unsure of the winter weather we may or may not face.

**SPED/Enrollment Reports:** Director of Pupil Personnel Svc., Heather Borges, reported on the financial status of Special Education. She informed the committee there is a decrease in outplaced students by one student. Ms. Borges stated she continues to monitor the Special Education budget closely.

**Budget Transfers:** Mrs. Mangini reported that the budget transfers brought forth to the committee are mainly an effort to adjust accounts for proper accounting purposes. She said adjustments have been made in an effort to be consistent with the Federal Handbook and State Chart of Accounts.

A MOTION TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD (WITH A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION) FOR APPROVAL WAS MADE BY BEN PROTO; SECONDED BY BOB DAVID AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY ON A ROLL CALL VOTE. .

**Enrollment** - Dr. Robinson gave a brief report on district enrollment. She said concerns still lie with the middle school enrollment numbers. Wooster Middle School enrollment is trending 100+ students higher than Flood Middle School enrollment. She said the district will need to explore street boundaries and see whether adjustments can be made to the feeder elementary schools.

#### **Other Business:**

- Mr. Faggella asked if the budget layout could be adjusted to make it easier for viewing. Ms. Mangini said she would look at the reports to see what adjustments could be made.

Mrs. DelBene suggested that Mr. Faggella considers reviewing the documents online so that the zoom feature could be utilized for digital copies.

- Mr. David spoke about special education costs in general. He wanted to make a statement to the public as a reminder that there is no control over special education costs. The Finance Committee and Administration make educated estimations every year not ever knowing what might be in the future. He stated the Stratford Public Schools system is responsible for the education of all special education students eligible for services in Stratford.

**Adjournment:** Hearing no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM. Motion: BP-Ben Proto Seconded by: BD - Bob David - and carried.

**SECRETARY  
APPROVAL:**

*(Signature & Date)*

12/21/2020

