

DATE: February 22, 2021
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, Janice Cupee, Vinny Faggella, Janet Robinson (Superintendent), Pam Mangini, Teresa Lycoudes (Recording Secretary), Kevin Klemme, Heather Borges, Lou Spetrino (Videographer)

Absent

Amy Wiltsie, Ben Proto

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order virtually by Committee Chair, Karen Rodia, at 6:31 PM. A quorum was confirmed. The meeting minutes from 1/25/2021 were accepted (with a correction - “Mrs. Rodia requested a copy of outplaced students” (**for cost analysis**) on a motion made by Mr. Faggella; seconded by Mrs. Corcoran, and passed unanimously.

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 January 25th. Mrs. Mangini reported the budget appears to be on track at this point in time. She remains hopeful there will be some savings in the salaries and transportation accounts. Mrs. Mangini briefly reported on utilities, as well.

Mr. David asked if there were savings in transportation costs on days that are 100% remote learning. Mrs. Mangini informed the committee there were savings of approximately 50% on those days. She added that special education programs continue, as well as private schools.

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 of one new grant at this point in time - The Carl Perkins Grant. In addition, Dr. Klemme reported there has been some revision to the ESSER grant that has resulted in a lower % the District must give to the area private schools.

Dr. Klemme also touched briefly on the possibility of using some carry over funds to fund a three week summer program designed to help students who have fallen behind during the pandemic catch up on their academics.

Mr. DeLorenzo stated that rules and regulations need to be followed for the ESSER grant monies.

Mrs. Cupee expressed her hope that the strategic planning on how to use the funds will be shared with the Board prior to putting anything in place. Dr. Robinson stated that she and Mrs. Mangini will be meeting to discuss the use of the funds and she will share that information with the Board members.

Mr. Faggella asked if Trumbull was included with the Continuing Education monies. Dr. Klemme said that the approximate \$40,000 received from Trumbull for adult continuing education is included.

Mr. DeLorenzo asked about the audit with the Town of Stratford. He asked if there was any additional information indicating when the audit report would be ready to share with Board members. Mrs. Mangini said she is hopeful it may be ready to share at the March meeting; if not then, soon after.

SPED/Enrollment Reports: Director of Pupil Personnel Svc., Heather Borges, reported on the financial status of Special Education. Mrs. Borges said there is nothing new to report. She is still monitoring the SPED budget closely at this point in time.

Budget Transfers: There were two current Budget Transfers totaling \$30,500.

1. The transfer of funds to pay Milone and MacBroom for the contract approved by the Board in April 2020. (\$16,500) - A motion to approve was made by Mr. David; seconded by Mrs. Cupee. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (7-0).
2. The transfer of funds to cover video / conference expenses for \$14,000 - A motion to approve was made by Mrs. Cupee; seconded by Mr. Faggella. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Enrollment - Dr. Robinson gave a brief report on district enrollment.

Items for Discussion/Possible Action:

- The proposed 2021-2022 Itemized Estimate of Expenditures (Budget)
 - A motion was made by Mr. Faggella; seconded by Mrs. DeBene to open the discussion surrounding the proposed Itemized Estimate of Expenditures for 2021-2022 (in the amount of \$!22,226,184 which is an increase over last year's budget of \$4,686,489 or 3.99%).

Dr. Robinson and Mrs. Mangini reported the Town of Stratford will absorb the \$130,000 for fire insurance which will bring the proposed budget to a 3.88% increase. Dr. Robinson said she

would encourage committee members to send the proposed budget to the Town at the existing amount. She said a lot of work has gone into the preparations and everything has been carefully thought through.

Mrs. DelBene stated a lot of hard work has been put into the preparation of the 2021-2022 budget and she supports the efforts.

Mr. DeLorenzo asked Mrs. Mangini if she was confident with the work put into the preparation of the 2021-2022 budget. Mrs. Mangini stated she was very much confident and that the proposed budget was the product of a great Team Effort and some very difficult decisions. She said she believes it represents the needs of the District.

Mrs. Corcoran stated she would like to see the contingency amount of \$140,000 put into the correct line item for preschool teachers. Mrs. Mangini said she and Mrs. Nicholson will make that adjustment before the document is sent to the Town Council and Mayor's Office.

Mr. David made a motion to Table the item for more discussion; seconded by Mrs. Cupee. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (7-0). Mrs. Rodia stated the Board would set a date for the next meeting only but would not be taking action.

Adjournment: Hearing no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM. Motion: AD- Allison DelBene Seconded by: BD- Bob David - and carried.

SECRETARY APPROVAL:

(Signature & Date)

2.24.2021


