

## FINANCE MEETING MINUTES<sup>i</sup>

New Bedford Public Schools  
Paul Rodrigues Administration Building  
455 County Street, Room 224  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
**Also remote via NBPS website**

Finance Subcommittee Meeting  
October 1, 2020  
6:00 – 6:40 PM

Present: Mr. Bruce Oliveira, Mr. Joshua Amaral, Ms. Colleen Dawicki (via Zoom)

Also in attendance: Mr. Andrew O'Leary, Ms. Theresa Cormier (via Zoom)  
Absent: Mr. Thomas Anderson, Ms. Karen Treadup, Ms. Rachel Bento-Cunha

The meeting commenced at 6:00 PM.

The minutes from the September 10, 2020 Finance Subcommittee Meeting were reviewed. Voted unanimously on a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Mr. Oliveira to approve the minutes.

Mr. O'Leary presented and discussed the September 2020 Function Code report. He indicated that the bottom-line figure is \$179,162,500 and our approved budget was for \$153,000,000; the increase accounting for the health care which is under the purview of the School Committee going forward this fiscal year. He indicated that the School Department has started to monitor the health insurance expenditure reports and that we will make them a feature of the spenddowns finance reports as trending healthcare costs to see how the year is progressing and do potential transfers of any savings. He reported that we are on track with last year's spending, comparing 80% spent or encumbered this year to 76% last year, and that at the school level, school supplies were handled through prepaids and COVID-19 funding in FY20 but that schools are now spending down their accounts for the year.

Mr. O'Leary presented and discussed the September 2020 Salary report. He indicated that we usually wait until October to get a read on salaries to see the actual trend, and that there is a salary surplus projected for next month. He indicated that we will continue to track our surpluses and ensure to transfer them in time. Mr. O'Leary also discussed closing the budget gap using ESSER Grant funding and other grants, pointing out that as we accrue salary savings, we can pay those expenses back out of ESSER and ESSER gets to live into FY22. He also discussed that the state government promised a budget by the end of October 2020, which will likely change the Ch. 70 assumptions we have made and that will need to revisit the Net School Spending (NSS) implications at that time.

Mr. O'Leary presented and discussed the September 2020 Transfers. Voted unanimously on a motion by Mr. Oliveira to approve the Transfers and seconded by Ms. Dawicki.

Mr. O'Leary presented and discussed the Revolving Account, indicating that we will be watching Circuit Breaker account closely. He further indicated that as the state settles Ch. 70, they tend to compromise Circuit Breaker, however, our account is projected at the level we want it to be at and we have fully encumbered it for potential Special Education out-of-district costs this year.

Mr. O'Leary presented and discussed the FY19 and FY20 Grant Reports. He indicated that the main grants we are focusing on are the CvRF (COVID-19 Relief Fund) Grant and the ESSER Grant. He expounded that we are constantly reviewing what we can justify as a COVID-19 related expenditure and applying them to CvRF, such as the air purification units.

Voted unanimously on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.



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Andrew B. O'Leary  
Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations

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<sup>1</sup> The **Open Meeting Law** requires public bodies to create and approve minutes in a timely manner. A "timely manner" is considered to be within the next three public body meetings or 30 days from the date of the meeting, whichever is later, unless the public body can show good cause for further delay