

FINANCE MEETING MINUTES¹

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
November 5, 2020
6:00 – 6:41 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) Ms. Rachel Bento-Cunha (via Zoom)
Absent: Mr. Thomas Anderson, Ms. Karen Treadup

The meeting commenced at 6:00 PM.

The minutes from the October 1, 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 October 2020 Function Code Report. Mr. O'Leary notated how the function codes from this year to last year differ due to COVID needs.

Mr. O'Leary presented and discussed the General Expense Report. There was concern brought up about the needs of the schools being met. Mr. O'Leary asked Ms. Bento-Cunha to check in with some of the schools that had spent very little funds so and to also check with funds in the after-school program and how they will be used.

Mr. O'Leary presented and discussed the October 2020 Salary Report. Mr. Oliveira inquired about the 25,000 transfer into salaries. Ms. Bento-Cunha explained how that was due to vendor positions being converted to employee positions and therefore the funds that were originally budgeted in the vendor line was moved to salaries to cover those positions. Mr. O'Leary explained in further detail why these positions should be listed as an employee rather than a vendor. Discussion continued about the salary savings already beginning and plans on how to keep track of the possible insurance savings. Mr. O'Leary stated a health care report will be added in the following Finance Subcommittee meetings so that this can be discussed in more depth.

Mr. O'Leary presented and discussed the October 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 FY19 and FY20 Grant Reports, ESSER Grant funding, and Covid-19 Relief funding.

Mr. O'Leary presented and discussed the Net School Spending for FY20. He stated how it appears the City's contributions to Net School Spending will be about 8 million dollars. He further explained that contributing expenses were a result of Covid-19 and factors such as fewer bussing.

Mr. O'Leary presented and discussed the Supplemental Appropriation Letter. He stated his office will begin working on a breakdown for the next Finance Subcommittee meeting. Mr. O'Leary spoke about additional positions of about 2.5 million dollars being part of it. Ms. Bento-Cunha also mentioned areas such as utilities will have a significant increase due to additional ventilation usage, as well as, a large increase in vendor pricing. Mr. Oliveira asked about some of these additional funds possibly being used on facilities. Mr. O'Leary concurred that this was a probability and that he would supply further details in the next meeting so that it could be discussed in more depth. He also mentioned this appropriation still needed to go to the City Council and therefore this figure was not final.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM.



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

¹ 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

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