

FINANCE MEETING MINUTES¹

New Bedford Public Schools
Paul Rodrigues Administration Building
455 County Street, Room 119
New Bedford, MA 02740

Finance Subcommittee Meeting
June 11, 2020
4:30pm – 5:00pm
Remote via NBPS website

Present: Mr. Bruce Oliveira, Mr. Joshua Amaral, Ms. Colleen Dawicki

Also in attendance: Mr. Andrew O'Leary, Ms. Theresa Cormier

Absent: Mr. Thomas Anderson, Ms. Karen Treadup

The meeting commenced at 4:30 pm.

The minutes from the May 7, 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 May 2020 Finance Reports including: Function Code Report, General Expense Report, Salary Report, Transfers, and the FY19 and FY20 Grant Reports.

Mr. O'Leary presented and discussed the May 2020 Function Code and General Expense Reports. He indicated that NBPS is in process of closing out the end of the fiscal year and final orders including transfers were submitted in late May/early June. Mr. O'Leary discussed realized savings through transportation shutdown and regular salary savings which were transferred into supplies needed because of the pandemic shutdown, including Tech and Facilities/maintenance supplies, as well as, anticipated supplies for next school year that under M.G.L., we are permitted to stock up on. Mr. O'Leary compared this year's remaining budget to last year's and found that they are very similar, although this year's spending focused more on supplies and Special Education pre-pays due to current circumstances. Mr. O'Leary indicated that the School Department budget is in line with the City's financial schedules in closing out FY2020.

Mr. O'Leary presented and discussed the May 2020 Salary Report. He indicated NBPS concluded with \$2 million surplus of the original salary budget of about \$110 million, which was transferred to use toward such items as school supplies, Circuit Breaker, Special Education pre-pays, and Tech purchases.

Mr. O'Leary presented and discussed the May 2020 Transfers which included Dreambox Learning, Lexia, Chromebooks, furniture, Special Education, and updating Tech Services equipment. He indicated that the transfers were approved by the Chair of the Finance Subcommittee, Bruce Oliveira.

Mr. O'Leary presented and discussed the May 2020 FY2019 and FY2020 Grant Reports. He indicated that the FY2019 grants were closed out as all available funds were used, and that the FY2020 grants can be carried forward to FY2021 as they have a no-cost extension due to the crisis, although we do not have allocations as of yet but will bring forward for approval at the July 2020 School Committee meeting. Mr. O'Leary also discussed the Cares Act grant which emerged from the stimulus in March and will be available to New Bedford to help us in FY2021.

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

Mr. O'Leary discussed the FY2021 Budget Book and budget priorities. He indicated that the projected \$163 million Net School Spending figure would allow us to maintain and anchor our focus for the FY2021 budget. He indicated that the Budget Book will provide a breakdown of cost centers and trends that will assist in generating a healthy discussion of approval of the budget. He also presented and discussed the July Interim Budget which encompassed a schedule of bills to be paid in July.

Mr. O'Leary presented consideration for the approval for the Student Activity, Revolving, and Grant Accounts for FY 2021.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.



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

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