

FINANCE MEETING MINUTESⁱ

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

Finance Subcommittee Meeting
July 9, 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. Rachel Bento
Absent: Mr. Thomas Anderson, Ms. Karen Treadup

The meeting commenced at 4:30 pm.

The minutes from the June 11, 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 FY21 Preliminary Budget Book. He indicated that the budget book describes our outlook in terms of revenue projection, our costs, and non-local budget (revolving, Food Service, grants) and that it was assembled throughout the year via our budget cycles and focus on service-level, as reflected in the Function Code Reports. Mr. O’Leary explained that prior to the pandemic, our strategic plan included Student Opportunity Act monies and after the crisis, our plan included reducing Special Education, Transportation, and salary savings and inputting these cost savings into Circuit Breaker and Special Education “buffer” accounts which allowed us to arrive at the current budget. He expounded that revenue (Chapter 70 and Net School Spending) is yet to be determined by the governor to allocate state aid, but we anticipate that the state will most likely take a level-funded approach. He indicated that the possible gap in revenue could be closed through the Cares Act and other strategies including grant offsets and potential transfers, if necessary, to maintain the local budget intact.

Mr. O’Leary presented and discussed the June 2020 Function Code Report which reflects the operating budget we are currently managing. He also presented and discussed the June 2020 General Expense Report which shows all departments and schools have closed out for the year.

Mr. O’Leary presented and discussed the June 2020 Salary Report which reflects 1-2 million in salary savings. He indicated that salaries have been closed out and that all surpluses were transferred earlier this year. Transfer tuition pre-pays and final supplies final curriculum purchases go into NSS eligible or FY21 mitigation areas.

Mr. O’Leary presented and discussed Grant Reports. He indicated that the FY19 grants have all been spent, and that FY20 grant balances will be helpful for FY21. Grants will be annually approved by the School Committee.

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

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