

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
June 3, 2021
6:00 – 7:40PM

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

The meeting commenced at 6:00 PM. Minutes from the May 2021 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 2021 Finance Reports forecasting end of year balances. Mr. O'Leary noted the large amount remaining in transportation and outlined the yearlong strategy to transfer favorable variances to NSS eligible expenditures- furniture and curriculum supplies etc. We are at the max carryover in Circuit Breaker right now as DESE holds districts to a ceiling. Moving transport savings is was more difficult as savings only realized later in year as out of district sped providers did not meet their reopening targets. Fortunately, this did not adversely affect NSS as transport is NSS ineligible.

Where transport costs will see a "normal" increase in future years and where charter expansion and special ed will create an above normal transport increase over those years, the best strategy is to add to the Special Ed stabilization account. From here, future special ed transport increases can be defrayed. Ultimately, transport is something of an unfunded mandate for the city, for which the city receives little in the way of credit (as it is non NSS). In short, the city will have to pay for the busses anyway, so the following steps seem the best way forward:

Fall 2021

- School Dept. will forecast FY23/24/25 Special Ed, charter, regular transportation costs
- School Dept. will stipulate Sped Stabilization a/c requirements for transfer, balance limits, and expenditure approval
- School Finance Subcommittee will submit Free Cash transfer recommendation to Mayor's office

Mr. O'Leary presented and discussed the May 2021 Transfers. Voted unanimously on a motion by Mr. Oliveira to approve the Transfers and seconded by Ms. Dawicki.

Mr. O'Leary presented and discussed Donation Acceptance Request Forms. Voted unanimously on a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Mr. Oliveira to approve the Requests. Mr. Oliveira mentioned that he was unaware of some of these opportunities for donations and many others would like to contribute if notification of need was improved. In addition, where donations are substantial or unique or otherwise worthy of greater recognition, the district should look to formalize a process for donor recognition.

Mr. O'Leary presented and discussed the FY22 Food Service Budget, the FY22-FY24 ESSER Draft, and discussed the FY22 Revolving Funds and Grant Approvals. The plan is to establish an annual approval of these special revenue funds (outside the general fund) that can annually be viewed and approved by the school committee. Mr. O'Leary forecast a grant, revolver and USDA approval at the full July School Committee meeting, where a breakdown of the ESSER 2 budget will also be submitted to the Committee.

Voted unanimously on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral to adjourn.
The meeting adjourned at 7:40 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