

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING
HELD VIRTUALLY ON JUNE 4, 2020 AT 7:30 P.M.**

Board Members Present: Anthony Perugini-Chair; Adam Grippo-Vice Chair; Kathryn Hallen-Secretary; Faith Ham, Anne Harrigan, Andrew Martelli, Timothy White

Board Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Jeffrey F. Solan, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Vincent Masciana, Chief Operating Officer

Public access made available through live streaming the Cheshire Public School's YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/channel/UCULDbVCqppiY_3egBVDA-mw . Public comments were accepted at CPSCovid19@chshire.k12.ct.us .

1. CALL TO ORDER – 7:30 P.M.

- A. Roll for Quorum. The roll was called and a quorum determined.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
Mr. Perugini led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MOTION by Ms. Ham, seconded by Mr. Grippo.

MOVED that the Agenda be amended to move Item 10A. - Appointment of Darcey School Principal after Item 3. Audience; add Agenda Item 5.B.IV - Approval of Internal Control and Operational Review, and add Agenda Item 5.B.V - Approval of Request for Deposit to Non-Lapsing Education Fund

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

- C. Student Representatives. Isabel Orozco and R.J. Streater, student representatives for the 2019/2020 school year gave their final report of the year. They reported on items such as the graduation survey that was sent to parents and students, which led to the decision to hold a traditional ceremony on August 2nd at 6 p.m. There will be a reverse parade send-off for seniors on June 11th. Parking fees for juniors and seniors will be reimbursed on a pro-rated basis, or seniors can donate the money towards PPE or to support the Human Services Department. The reps reported there will be a peaceful protest for George Floyd. The march will be from Bartlem Park to the Town Hall on June 6th at 2:30 p.m.

Superintendent Solan thanked the reps for their services. He said they have been incredible liaisons to the Board of Education. He said both RJ and Isabel have represented Cheshire High School with grace and integrity and he is so proud of their leadership. He wished RJ all the best as he heads to UCONN to enter a pre-

med program, and to Izzy as she heads to Wellesley College for pre-law in the fall.

Chairman Perugini also thanked the representatives and said he is impressed with their accomplishments. He wished them good luck in their futures. Each of the other Board members thanked the reps. Izzy and RJ thanked the Board for this experience and for their support.

2. **PRESENTATIONS**

A. **Recognition of Valedictorian and Salutatorian**

Dr. Mary Gadd presented the Valedictorian and Salutatorian who joined the meeting virtually.

Andrew Lou – Valedictorian, Cheshire High School Class of 2020

Andrew is an intelligent, determined and ambitious young man who will fulfill the expectations of his college program and campus. When reviewing his transcript, you see his dedication to education and his impressive motivation. By the time he graduates, he will have completed 16 Advanced Placement courses and multiple ECE classes. Andrew enjoys learning. He looks for ways to expand his knowledge. For example, first semester senior year he took AP Microeconomics online because it is a class we do not offer at Cheshire High School. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Science Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and earned awards in math and chemistry. He attended the American Legion Boys' State Leadership Conference and is currently the Boys State Secretary of State. Teachers comment that he is a tremendous student to have in class. "He is always in a good mood, always smiling, always finds the positive in a given situation; and always has a witty quip ready to go. As busy as he is, he maintains a strong sense of calm and balance. As accomplished as he is, Andrew remains genuinely humble." Although his school performance has been remarkable, I would really like to share with you his other outstanding characteristics. Our town and school communities have greatly benefited from Andrew's contributions to volunteer work, school clubs, and athletics. He is admired and respected by both the faculty and students at Cheshire High School. Andrew is a musician, swimmer, and avid volunteer. One of the places Andrew volunteers is Elim Park retirement home. Staff at the facility rely on Andrew to do much of the work the other volunteers avoid. Some of the jobs include gathering eggs, cleaning the chicken coop and cleaning rooms. Although Andrew isn't fond of these chores he understands someone has to step up and he does so without complaint. Andrew does have the opportunity to interact with the residents while they play bingo. Andrew is a responsible, bright, and giving young man who was a positive influence on our school. He will positively impact students, faculty, and the community at Cornell University.

Cindy Guo – Salutatorian, Cheshire High School Class of 2020

"A person of enormous integrity and class," "an outstanding, insightful, and enthusiastic leader," "a student who stands out as an exceptional person." These

are all direct quotes used to describe Cindy Guo. Cindy, also known as “Ya-ya,” is truly a phenomenal young woman! Besides having an impeccable transcript with 13 AP and 6 ECE courses, Ya-ya is confident, kind, humble and light hearted. She has walked the halls of Cheshire High School with a sweet, genuine smile on her face and a powerful determination in her heart. Ya-ya has been immersed in numerous activities through her 4 years at Cheshire High School. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, Student Government, and a Peer Advocate. She has completed over 200 hours of community service throughout her high school career. She has won multiple awards over the years for academics: CHS Leader Scholar, the Bausch & Lomb Science Award, the Gettysburg Book Award, and the CHS Fred Willets Award for chemistry, just to name a few. She was also nominated for the 2020 U.S. Presidential Scholars Award, an elite award of top students across the nation. Ya-ya has been a valuable member of the CHS Symphonic and Marching Band, where she has spent countless hours preparing and participating in highly competitive competitions. From 2014-2018, Cindy was also a Select Student Piano Competition Winner. Ya-ya’s activities outside of school are just as impressive as her academic standing and positive personality. She is currently an Assistant Instructor at Kumon Learning Center in Cheshire. In the past Ya-ya has been an ambassador in the pediatric unit at Yale New Haven Hospital, an assistant coach at the Yale Figure Skating Club, and a teaching assistant at Southern CT State University’s Chinese School. In the fall, Cindy will be attending Yale University, majoring in the field of STEM, with aspirations to pursue a degree in medicine.

B. Recognition of Retiring Personnel

The following teachers were recognized through video by their Principal/Supervisors. Below is a list of the retirees and their years of service to Cheshire Public Schools.

Jane Tilton Guralnick	Special Ed Teacher - Dodd	14 Years of Service
Sue Montagna-Vogt	Speech & Language Pathologist - Darcey	28 Years of Service
Donna Notti	B-3 Teacher - Darcey	28 Years of Service
Carolyn Woodbury	Social Worker - Dodd	30 Years of Service
Patricia Lee	Pre-School Teacher - Darcey	42 Years of Service
E. Ann Donnery	Principal - Darcey	8 Years of Service

Dr. Solan noted that there are other retirees who will be recognized at the June 30th fiscal/business meeting. Dr. Solan noted that there are 142 years of teaching service retiring. The Board congratulated all of the retirees.

3. AUDIENCE

Dr. Solan read an email from Jami Ferguson, 105 Copper Beach Drive. Mrs. Ferguson encouraged the Board to reconsider the intent of the Social Media Use Policy 9327.1(a) that was proposed last year. She noted it could have prevented the very unfortunate error in judgment that was circulated on social media last week. Referring to a post on social

media made by the Chairman, she said it has created a question of confidence for the entire Board of Education and the Cheshire Public School District. The Chairman has served this town for a long time, and I'm certain his intent is to his best for the community, as he always has. However, at this time, it may be appropriate to rescind the role of chair and serve the body and the community in another capacity. I regret you all are in this position with a colleague and friend, but I have confidence you will reach an appropriate decision for the community.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION by Ms. Hallen; seconded by Mr. Martelli.

MOVED *That the Cheshire Board of Education approves the Consent Calendar as presented.*

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Approval of 20-21 Tuition Rates

Each year in accordance with Policy 3240 – Business – Tuition Fees, the Board of Education shall annually establish a tuition fee for non-resident students. The Business Office has calculated the elementary, kindergarten, middle and high school tuition rates using regular education per pupil expenditures. The per pupil elementary school regular education expenditures for the 2020-21 school year, with transportation expenditures removed, is \$12,759. The high school tuition rate is \$12,895 with transportation expenditures removed. Below is a history of tuition rates for the last few years.

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Proposed 2020/21
Full day Kindergarten/ Elementary/Dodd	\$11,462	\$11,487	\$11,587	\$12,759
High School	\$11,716	\$12,294	\$12,366	\$12,895

“That the Cheshire Board of Education establish the 2020-21 tuition fee for non-resident students at \$12,759 for elementary and middle school students and \$12,895 for high school students.”

Approval of 2021 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

Board of Education policy and Town Charter provisions require that the meeting schedule of the Board of Education be set on a calendar year basis prior to the beginning of the new calendar year. Presently, the Board of Education schedule is set and has been approved through December 2020. However, for the purposes of planning for the Cheshire Public Schools' 2020-21 academic year, a schedule has been drafted for the period of January 2021 through December 2021 for your approval.

"That the Cheshire Board of Education adopts the meeting schedule for the calendar year 2021, and further, directs the Superintendent to forward the meeting schedule to the Town Clerk and the Town Manager for public notice."

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointment of Principal-Darcey School

Superintendent Solan said tonight they are bringing forward his recommendation for the appointment of Kimberly Dessert to the position of Principal-Darcey School.

Ms. Silano introduced Kimberly Dessert and said she is a skilled leader who has a deep understanding of best practices for early childhood education. Throughout the search process they learned of Ms. Dessert's relentless pursuit of what is best for children. She possesses a deep understanding of early literacy and Responsive Classroom practices as well as the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards. Perhaps most importantly, Ms. Dessert conveyed to the search committee the importance of listening to children, to teachers, to parents and to each other. Ms. Dessert was described as a tireless advocate for students with special needs and was instrumental in bringing an inclusion preschool to her district. Ms. Dessert currently serves as the principal of Kelly Lane School in Granby. She received both her Sixth Year Certificate in Educational Leadership and Master of Arts degree in Reading from Central CT State University. Her undergraduate degree in Child Study with a minor in Special Education was earned at the University of Saint Joseph.

MOTION by Ms. Hallen, seconded by Ms. Harrigan

***MOVED** that the Cheshire Board of Education appoint Kimberly Dessert to the position of Darcey School Principal effective July 1, 2020. Further, that Ms. Dessert be compensated in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement between the Board and the Cheshire Administrative Personnel.*

Discussion

Mr. Grippo said he had an opportunity to meet with Ms. Dessert and is sure we are leaving Darcey in capable hands. Each of the Board members welcomed Ms. Dessert to the Cheshire Public Schools. Ms. Dessert thanked the Board and said she looks forward to carrying on the great work at Darcey School.

5. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A. CURRICULUM

I. Approval of Textbook

Ms. Ham reported that the Curriculum Committee recommends to the Board approval of the purchase of the following textbook:

Textbook	Publisher	Grade
Essentials of Comparative Politics with Cases, 6th AP Edition	W. W. Norton & Company	11-12

MOTION by Ms. Ham and seconded by Ms. Harrigan.

MOVED that the Cheshire Board of Education approve the purchase of the following textbook: *Essentials of Comparative Politics with Cases, 6th AP Edition*.

Discussion:

Mr. White asked for information regarding the textbook for the public. Ms. Ham said this book, as recommended by Cheshire High School teacher, Tim Galvin, is the best option for a text for AP Comparative Government class because it has both chapters centered on the thematic threads that are the core of the AP Comparative Government curriculum, as well as having case study chapters. The book is well reviewed by colleagues across the country who teach AP Comparative Government. Most people in the teacher community who have adopted it, find it to be more successful in engaging students while meeting the content requirements of the recently revised CED. Though it is not perfectly aligned with the new CED, a text that is better aligned is more than a year and a half away according to the publisher. When consulting the teaching community, most teachers favored this text over others due to how comprehensive it is compared to the next most popular text that is more of a study guide than an actual text. The textbook company also provides an instructor manual, test bank, and other classroom resources that other texts do not. The cost of the textbooks is \$1,902.56.

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

B. FINANCE

II. Report on Meeting Held June 3, 2020.

Mr. Grippo reported that the committee met the prior night and discussed the budget reductions that need to be made to further reduce their request by approximately \$908,000. During the discussion, the Committee requested that Dr. Solan make an amendment to his recommendation. He asked Dr. Solan to explain the changes.

Dr. Solan said the Committee had asked to have an English position added back into the budget, and in doing so had to make some reductions to other areas. To do so, they put \$80,000 back into the Teacher Salaries Account. They will reduce another IA position (\$25,000), so that there will be three reductions in total. The leadership team reduced the consult

line by \$15,000. There will be an additional reduction to transportation of \$30,000 and \$10,000 savings for locking in on the lower cost of diesel.

Mr. Grippo thanked the Superintendent and his team for going back through the budget to find a way to restore the English teaching position at the high school level, which the Committee felt was important. He commented on the \$42,000 for the shared costs between the Town and the Board for a project manager. He asked Dr. Solan to speak about when the decision was made. He said he knows historically they have had projects that have not run well in town and this was a solution to ensure a more efficient running of projects to come in on time and on budget. Mr. Grippo supports the expenditure but would like to know the origin of the request.

Dr. Solan said he cannot speak to Town projects, but the Board of Education projects have run well under our staff's management. Mr. Masciana explained it was brought up after both the Superintendent's Recommended Budget and Board's Budget was transmitted to the Town Manager in January. Sometime in March or April, the Town Manager asked if we could support splitting the cost of the project manager position. The process of taking a project from appropriation to completion is a lot of work. The number of projects have increased and it has put a strain on Town resources. He said he will be involved in the hiring. Notwithstanding the funding, in light of the budget reductions, he thinks it is a good idea to have the project manager as it will be one full time person dedicated to the projects.

Ms. Hallen said she objects to absorbing this cost at this time. She agrees with the position, but feels it is not the right thing to do right at this moment, not knowing the COVID-19 impact on our budget. She said if we were not already facing a \$1 million reduction, she might not feel so strongly against it. She said she cannot approve this kind of expenditure when we need funds for more important things this year. She said the Town Council should have reviewed it with the Board when they were discussing what needed to be cut.

Mr. White said he will support this motion, as it is a collaborative relationship that the Board and Town need to have. He said he understands not liking the process, but it makes sense and he supports the project manager component.

Ms. Ham thanked the Superintendent and his team for reworking the numbers. She said she echoes Ms. Hallen's concerns with the project manager position. She understands it will streamline projects, but asked how we weren't informed; but as a Board, they should have known. She

said she will support the position but she is concerned with setting a precedent.

Mr. Perugini said he spoke with a Town Councilor and they told him it was highly unlikely they would have added this to the budget without adding the dollars to the budget increase. He said he will confirm whether or not that amount was added to the increase.

Ms. Harrigan said she in theory she agrees it is a good idea and would love to be cooperative and support the position, however she feels we need to delay this expenditure for another year because we are dealing with extenuating circumstances and expenditures. She said this is not a priority in this tough budget time.

Mr. Martelli said there are many projects being done, and although Mr. Clavet and Mr. Masciana have done a great job getting them out to bid and moving, there are many projects that have been approved that have not gone into the construction phase yet. He thinks that hiring this person could streamline the process. He agrees with the fact they should have heard about it with the multiple meetings, but if they are able to maintain the level of services, he is in support of it.

As a point of order, Chairman Perugini said he understands they are only talking about the Finance Committee meeting, but suggested a motion be made before continuing. He explained that at the Finance Committee meeting, the committee voted on a motion with the understanding that they Superintendent would try to rework the numbers to restore the English teacher position. The first motion will be the one that came out of the Finance Committee and then someone can make an amended motion if so desired.

III. Discussion/Possible Approval of 2020-2021 Board of Education Budget

MOTION by Mr. Grippo seconded by Ms. Hallen

***MOVED** that the Cheshire Board of Education approve budget reductions as outlined in the Superintendent's Correspondence to the Board of June 3, 2020, totaling \$908,628 to reduce the Board of Education's recommended budget for 2020/21 of \$75,502,554 to the funding level appropriated by the Cheshire Town Council of \$74,593,926, as follows:*

Account	Increase	Decrease	Reduction
Certified Salaries		-530,500	-530,500
Non-Certified Salaries	42,500	-201,800	-159,300
Employee Benefits	98,872		98,872
Instructional Expense		-224,875	-224,875
Support Services		-10,000	-10,000
Maintenance & Operations		-82,825	-82,825
	\$141,372	-\$1,050,000	-\$908,628

MOTION to AMEND by Mr. Grippo, seconded by Ms. Hallen

MOVED that the Cheshire Board of Education approve budget reductions as outlined in the Superintendent's Correspondence to the Board of June 4, 2020, totaling \$908,628 to reduce the Board of Education's recommended budget for 2020/21 of \$75,502,554 to the funding level appropriated by the Cheshire Town Council of \$74,593,926, as follows:

Account	Increase	Decrease	Reduction
Certified Salaries		-450,500	-450,500
Non-Certified Salaries	42,500	-226,800	-184,300
Employee Benefits	98,872		98,872
Instructional Expense		-239,875	-239,875
Support Services		-50,000	-50,000
Maintenance & Operations		-82,825	-82,825
	\$141,372	-\$1,050,000	-\$908,628

Discussion

Mr. Grippo said the reason for the amended motion was to preserve the English teacher position at the high school. Dr. Solan explained that they will be reducing 2 positions, a half-team at Dodd. One of the teachers will bump into an open math teacher position at Dodd and the other is an English teacher who will move to Cheshire High School. That will leave one teacher without a position due to seniority.

Audience

Ms. Hallen read correspondence from Mr. Bestor regarding the budget. He said he is deeply troubled that the Town Council has imposed an additional \$42,500 administrative expense at a time when the Board has already been asked to make a \$60,000 cut to their budget bringing the

overall reduction to over \$1 million. He said this is not the time to incur a \$42,500 non-instructional expense.

Discussion

Mr. White said in regard to the Project Manager position, the Board of Education has 5 or 6 accounts where they we can move money around. He said he has strong concerns about the budget regarding the retirement incentive and pensions. The Board is shifting the problem from us to state but his priority is to the Cheshire Public Schools. Mr. White said we are digging a hole that the Council will need to fill next year. He said he would like to hear more from the teachers and the other unions with the possibility of no raise next year in exchange for no layoffs.

Ms. Harrigan said tonight we have to approve the reduction of \$908,628 because that is the number that was given to us. She said we are discussing how we are going to make that up from our budget request. Tonight is not about asking the teachers to give up some of their compensation. They have given so much during this crisis. Her objection to this budget reduction is the added expenditure of \$42,000. If that stays in any amended motion, she will not be supporting this budget.

Mr. Perugini reminded all that they are talking about a net reduction to an increase. The total budget for 2020-21 is over \$74 million. He said they are still getting an increase and does not fault the Town Council. He said they want to preserve jobs and they don't want to impact services. He will support this budget. He doesn't enjoy reaching out to collective bargaining units and knows they are keeping their options open. He said he believes 2021/22 will be even tougher, but everyone will ride this out together.

Mr. White said he appreciates the efforts of the teachers and IAs over the last few months. At the same time, many people have taken hits to their wages or are not getting a raise. Anyone who is fortunate to have a job today, has had to make changes. His goal is to maintain services and to keep everyone employed. He said he hopes there are further discussions with the unions.

Mr. Grippo said that he has been a Board of Education budget hawk over many years. He appreciates the reductions that the Superintendent and his team have put forward and knows this is down to the "bottom of the barrel." We have used these one-time savings to save staff and services for 2020-2021 year, but his concern is for future years. If we have used all of our savings, it could mean positions will be cut next year.

Ms. Harrigan said, to make no mistake, a \$1 million reduction to our budget is hurting our educational system and is hurting instruction and

what teachers are able to do. She believes it is going to get worse. Year-after-year we have these reductions from the Town and there is always some reason to put our budget at risk. She cannot support an expenditure of \$42,000 for a project manager.

VOTE: 5-2 (Ms. Hallen and Ms. Harrigan opposed).

Dr. Solan thanked the Board, as well as Mr. Masciana, Ms. Silano and Ms. Hussey for their work through this lengthy process.

IV. Approval of Internal Control and Operational Review

Mr. Grippo reviewed that in March, the Finance Committee met with Highland, Dodd and Cheshire High School principals regarding student activity accounts. He said there is about \$1 million that is funneled in and out of these accounts each year. At that meeting, he was tasked with speaking with the auditors regarding a review to ensure that the internal controls are working in practice, and to review the policy that dictates those controls for updates in accordance with accounting principles and GASB rules, as it has not been updated since 1997.

MOTION by Mr. Grippo, seconded by Ms. Ham.

MOVED *That the Cheshire Board of Education approve an internal control and operational review of Student Activity funds, including the High School, Middle School and five Elementary Schools; the Turf and Educational Programs special revenue funds (excluding grants, adult education and summer school activities); and Board of Education general fund expenditure credits to determine if internal controls are adequate and that activity is being properly reported. The review should include identification of all sources of revenue and testing of expenditures, focusing on, but not limited to, larger transactions, to determine if policies and procedures are being adhered to. Upon completion, a formal report should be issued detailing results of the procedures performed.*

Discussion

Ms. Hallen said an audit is important but there is really no need for this motion as Mr. Grippo informed them that the language was already included in an RFP for the Town's audit. She is not sure why the Board is being asked to vote on a motion that has no affect. In addition, this is an additional expense and we do not yet know the cost. She said the formal report should be issued to the Board of Education.

Ms. Harrigan said she is uncomfortable with this motion. While she thinks it is a very good idea to have the audit, the timing is not good because of the cost.

Mr. White said he is okay with a symbolic vote and will support the motion.

Mr. Perugini said this is important and we do need the audit. He said he asked Chairman Oris who would be paying for this and he wasn't really sure. He added that if folks are uncomfortable they can table the motion indefinitely until they know the cost and who will pay for it.

Mr. Martelli said there is a lot of money in these accounts, money paid-in by students and their families, and he thinks we want to be sure that internal controls are being followed and proper controls are in place.

MOTION by Mr. White to table this motion indefinitely, seconded by Ms. Harrigan.

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Mr. Grippo said it is tabled until they have an idea of the cost.

V. Approval of Request for Deposit to Non-Lapsing Education Fund

MOTION by Ms. Hallen, seconded by Ms. Harrigan.

MOVED *that the Cheshire Board of Education approve an internal control and operational review of Student Activity funds, including the High School, Middle School and five Elementary Schools; the Turf and Educational Programs special revenue funds (excluding grants, adult education and summer school activities); and Board of Education general fund expenditure credits to determine if internal controls are adequate and that activity is being properly reported. The review should include identification of all sources of revenue and testing of expenditures, focusing on, but not limited to, larger transactions, to determine if policies and procedures are being adhered to. Upon completion, a formal report should be issued detailing results of the procedures performed.*

VOTE: The Motion passed 7-0.

C. PLANNING

I. Report on Meeting Held June 2, 2020 - Minutes

Mr. Martelli reported the Committee first discussed JK Energy the firm

that performed energy work at Cheshire High School last summer. After completion, they did a full assessment of our school buildings and came up with several projects for all schools. When the LED upgrades are completed, the district schools will be operating with 99%+ LED lighting including our outdoor fixtures.

An award was made to JK Energy to complete a stadium lighting upgrade at the main game field at Cheshire High School this summer. The Town Council approved a \$150,000 appropriation for this project and utilizing a State DAS contract, the award to complete the project to JK Energy after a \$13,097.29 Eversource energy incentive is \$126,314.71. The primary reason for the upgrade is the current metal halide lighting does not provide enough light to meet the current 30 foot candle standard for the athletic users. The metal halide fixtures will be replaced with computer controlled dimmable LED fixtures which will meet the required standard. While not the primary goal, the project will result in estimated annual energy savings of \$2,873 and annual maintenance savings of \$3,500.

Mr. Martelli reported there are 15 different projects either under construction, or will be under construction, in the next year. There was also an update on capital projects that are delayed.

The Committee also discussed the agreement with Performance Environmental, the private contractor who provides cleaning services to the district schools. They have been with the district since 2014. There is a motion tonight to extend their contract for one year for 2020-2021 for a 5.5% increase for their base contract. From, \$682,000 to \$719,000 this increased cost is still below the 2017-2018 budget for cleaning services for the district.

II. Approval of Agreement with JK Energy for Energy Improvements

Mr. Martelli reported that JK Energy will be doing work at each of the elementary and middle schools. Their project in total will cost \$139,097 which includes LED lighting & refrigeration updates at Dodd and Highland, and LED lighting upgrades at Doolittle, Chapman, Darcey and Norton. The total cost of the project will be \$85,175 after a savings realized through the Eversource Conservation Incentive of \$53,921.60. The \$85,000 will be a five-year interest-free loan from Eversource. The goal is to have the work done over the summer.

MOTION by Ms. Hallen, seconded by Mr. Martelli.

MOVED that the Board of Education approves the recommendation to proceed with the Energy Improvement Project with JK Energy and further to seek the required approval from the Cheshire Town Council for approval of the financing agreement."

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

III. Approval of Extension of Agreement with Performance Environmental for Cleaning Services

Mr. Martelli reported that Performance Environmental, LLC has been successfully cleaning the Cheshire Public School facilities since July 1, 2014. Mr. Masciana added that the company has been especially responsible to our increased cleaning and disinfecting needs during the early stages of the COVID-19 Pandemic. They negotiated a 5.5% increase to the base contract, due to the increase in minimum wages. The cost would increase from \$682,488 to \$719,784. He added that during the building closure period, our building maintainers have done the summer work that is normally done by Environmental Performance. This resulted in a negotiated reduction of \$103,815 for 20-21, bringing the total to \$615,969. Mr. Masciana cautioned that additional cleaning costs related to COVID19 may negate some of the savings, although the actual costs are unknown at this time.

MOTION by Ms. Ham, seconded by Ms. Hallen.

***MOVED** that the Board of Education approves the extension of the contract with Performance Environmental, LLC for the 2020-21 fiscal year."*

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

D. POLICY

I. Report on Meeting Held June 1, 2020

Mr. Grippo reported that the Committee met and reviewed two Bylaws for a third reading and approval. He noted there were no significant changes since the first and second readings.

MOTION by Mr. Grippo and seconded by Ms. Hallen.

***MOVED** that the Cheshire Board of Education give a third and final reading to Bylaws #9130 Committees and #9321 – Time, Place, Notification, Type of Meetings and direct the Superintendent to put said policies into immediate effect.*

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

E. SCHOOL MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Martelli reported that the Committee met on June 1st via Zoom. The Committee received a detailed presentation from the out of district school visit committee. Four schools have been visited to date. They interviewed staff and

toured the facilities. They discussed the Colliers Agreement. A Request for Proposal went out on Tuesday for a 10-year enrollment study. An Executive Session was held after the meeting to discuss real estate.

F. OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES

None.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education (Business) Meeting Held May 21, 2020.

MOTION by Mr. Grippo; seconded by Mr. Martelli.

***MOVED** that the Cheshire Board of Education approve the minutes of the Board of Education Business Meeting held May 21, 2020.*

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously 7-0.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Hallen read a letter from Cheshire residents Christopher Affie and Sam Rosenberg that was sent to all Board Members with the request that it be read in full at the meeting. A copy of the letter is on file. In part, the letter stated the authors were “*shocked and angered to see a post by Cheshire Board of Education President Tony Perugini in a Cheshire Facebook group sharing views that contradict recommendations from health experts about the coronavirus and our current public health crisis. Perugini copied a statement from rock musician Ted Nugent. Quotes that Tony shared include “I’m not wearing a mask”, “I’m not staying six feet from you”, “You believe the made-up death numbers” and “We’re not all in this together’.* These statements violate all public health recommendations that have been shared with us including national and local experts like our Chesprocott health officials. Perugini’s post was followed by comments that contained additional misinformation. We need to listen to experts not share divisive commentary that encourages the spread of false information....” Mr. Affie and Ms. Rosenberg called for a public apology or to recuse himself from any involvement in the opening of the schools.

8. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Solan reported there is a lot of anticipation about the fall. The State has put out several possible options. Dr. Solan said they are focusing on what is the meeting the educational needs of our students in the greatest extent possible in a safe way. They will be following the medical advice from the State.

Emails from COVID19

Mitch Forlenza shared a link to a study published by the Lancet showing the significant decrease in COVID-19 transmission associated with physical distancing and wearing masks. ([www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)31142-9/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31142-9/fulltext))

He asked if this and similar scientific data be taken into account in preparing school opening plans?

Mr. Rob Brucato sent 5 emails throughout the meeting, asking if Cheshire has the right to refuse to follow the Governor's Executive Orders. He said he feels keeping kids separate, not socializing, and especially wearing mask is dangerous and not healthy both physically and mentally". He thanked the Administration and Board of Education. He agreed with the Project Manager position. He asked if the LED Lighting is warm and not blue; and lastly, he suggested purchasing Sterimist for the bathrooms.

9. OLD BUSINESS

None.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. NOTE: This item was moved to the beginning of the meeting.

B. Chairperson's Update

In response to the letter received from Mr. Affie and Ms. Rosenberg, Mr. Perugini offered a long apology. He said he made the post in jest to spark a conversation. He said it upsets him to think anyone would think he would not put the students' best interest first. He would never put our student's safety in jeopardy. He said he has been on this Board for a long time and his record speaks for itself. He said he is deeply sorry to the parents or anyone who thought that post was meant for them, it was meant to be sarcastic.

11. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Harrigan, and seconded by Ms. Ham, the meeting was adjourned into Executive Session to discuss union negotiations and the Superintendent's evaluation to include Dr. Solan and Mr. Masciana with no action to follow at 10:45 p.m. Executive Session adjourned at approximately 11:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Perugini

Anthony Perugini, Board Chair

Attest:

Carol Jesensky

Carol K. Jesensky, Board of Education Clerk

Filed Electronically at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Cheshire: 6/17/2020.