

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION FISCAL MEETING
HELD JUNE 30, 2021 AT 7:30 PM IN THE HUMISTON BOARD ROOM**

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

Board Members Absent: Timothy White

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/cheshirepublicschools . Public comments were accepted at CPSCovid19@cheshire.k12.ct.us .
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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.

2. AUDIENCE

None.

3. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FINANCE

I. Approval of 2020/21 Year-End Budget Transfers

Mr. Masciana reviewed the final expenditure report which detailed the line item summary of expenditures as of year-end, reflecting that we met our approved budget of \$74,593,926 with a fiscal year-ending balance of **\$0.00**. He explained that Board of Education Policy and Connecticut Statute require that the Board of Education approve line item transfers. The line items defined in the Board's policy are Salaries, Benefits, Instructional Expense, Support Services and Operations and Maintenance.

As we are all well aware, the entire 2020/21 fiscal year was marked by the continuation of the COVID-19 global pandemic which afflicted our nation and our schools in early 2020. We were obviously forced to carefully manage our budget again this year due to the uncertainty of the pandemic and its related costs. We incurred approximately \$1.32M in costs directly related to the pandemic, which we were able to offset using \$791,339 in pandemic-related grant funding, \$200,000 in the unexpended education funds account, and the remaining \$326,275 was covered by our operating budget. With respect to balancing our operating budget, it is important to note that there were savings realized in some of our accounts

due to the pandemic that certainly helped, including: lower student transportation costs due to the cancellation of fall sports and field trips, lower utility and building use costs, lower special education outplacement costs, as well as lower classified staffing costs due primarily to open positions that were not immediately filled. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we successfully managed our budget to achieve a balanced closing. It should be noted that our closing balance reflects:

- A final additional contribution of \$121,004 to the medical benefits reserve fund.
- Sufficient funding to make our required year-end school purchases and also allow for the summer maintenance projects needed to help keep the schools looking good and operating as effectively as possible.

Ms. Ham inquired about the \$500,000 shortage in Food Services. Mr. Masciana said it was reduced to \$275,000. As we got through the last part of the school year, more students returned to in-school learning and, in turn, more breakfast, lunch and a la carte items were purchased. He said we are in a good position for the start of the new school year.

Dr. Solan said, this past year, there were no large budget surprises as there have been in the past years. We are on solid ground moving into the next school year. Mr. Masciana added that the grant funding over the next few years will help offset some of the academic-related expenses whether it is learning loss costs or direct costs, such as purchasing PPE.

The Board had a conversation that included facility rental fees, technology in the district, electric buses

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

MOVED that the Board of Education approve line item transfers for the 2020/21 fiscal year-end as follows, to end the year in balance:

Fiscal Year End Transfers - 2020-21	To	From
Salaries		\$297,478.59
Employee Benefits		\$172,896.62
Instructional Expense	\$131,917.80	
Support Services		\$396,054.71
Operations & Maintenance	\$734,512.12	
Total	\$866,429.92	\$866,429.92

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Hallen read an email that was received from Brian Lopez, a Dodd Middle School Science teacher, who urged the Board, Town Council and School Modernization Committee to choose the option to build a Grade 6 to 8 Middle School.

Mr. Perugini read an email that was received from Cheshire resident, Mike O'Donnell, who had recently attended an adult softball game being played on a field at Highland Elementary School. He noted that the field is not being maintained properly and the equipment was warn. Town Manager Kimball was also copied on the email and responded to Mr. O'Donnell. Mr. Masciana noted that sometimes, if the Town's fields are being used, the Parks and Rec Department will use some of our school fields. He will be meeting with our Athletic Director and the Town staff to discuss the fields.

5. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Martelli gave a brief update on the School Modernization Committee. He reported that the Town Council will be meeting tomorrow evening to discuss options and test fits. Mr. Perugini said he expects to have a joint Board of Education/Town Council meeting in the coming weeks.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Chairperson's Update

Mr. Perugini said they are planning a Board retreat and asked members to forward agenda items to him.

7. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Grippo, and seconded by Ms. Hallen, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Perugini, Board Chair

Attest:

Carol K. Jesensky, Board of Education Clerk

Filed at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Cheshire: August 5, 2021.