

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
HELD IN TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON FEBRUARY 3, 2022 AT 7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Anthony Perugini-Chair; Adam Grippo-Vice Chair; Anne Harrigan-Secretary; Faith Ham, Andrew Martelli, Samantha Rosenberg, 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; Robin-Anne Carey, Director, Pupil Personnel Services; Mary Joscelyn-Gadd, Ed.D., Principal-Cheshire High School; Michael Woods, Principal-Dodd Middle School; John Perosino, Assistant Principal-Dodd Middle School; Kimberly Dessert, Principal-Darcey School; Amy O'Brien, Principal-Doolittle; Kelly Grillo, Principal-Norton School; Scott Jeffrey, Principal-Highland Elementary School; Kevin Hanlon, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator; Ryan Murphy, Family & Community Engagement Coordinator

Public access was 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 .
--

1. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 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. Grippo led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. AUDIENCE

None

3. DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING THE 2022/2023 SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET.

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

MOVED that the Finance Committee submits to the full Board of Education, the Superintendent's Proposed Budget for fiscal year 2022/2023. In the amount of \$81,114,420, an increase of \$4,113,368 over the current budget.

Discussion:

Ms. Rosenberg said she will support this budget, but asked Dr. Solan if there was an alternate plan as she would have liked the budget to include some items such as the Grade 9-12 Curriculum Coordinator and additional Professional Development for Teen Mental Health. Dr. Solan responded that there is already professional development embedded in our program for next year, Which is paid through federal grants. Regarding the Teen

Mental Health First Aid, he said this is a high priority and they have been working with the Town for this service. Regarding the 9-12 Curriculum Coordinator, he said the Board has the authority to add to his budget recommendation, but he tried to balance this budget request. Ms. Rosenberg thanked Dr. Solan and Mr. Masciana, but said she had hoped that we could advance the program, not just maintain.

Ms. Harrigan said she agrees with Ms. Rosenberg. She thanked Dr. Solan for his creative managing of our budget over the past years.

Ms. Ham said there is a real chance this will come back from the Town Council with a decrease and if that happens, she asked how that would be handled? Dr. Solan answered that it is always challenging, as this is a fluid process. By the time April comes around, we should have more information on Medical Benefits and other accounts to allow us to determine what flexibility there might be. If there are no flexibilities, we may have to look at reducing staff.

Mr. Martelli noted that, after going through the budget, he can see no place that can be cut. He hopes in the future, after this pandemic, we can look into moving the district forward. He said he will be supporting this budget.

Mr. Perugini said, in response to Ms. Rosenberg, it's not so much a matter of not being able to do those things for lack of money, but if the Board was able to add the Curriculum Coordinator, Security Manager, etc., given everything else going on with COVID and other priorities, adding those items would be impossible now. However, that may be possible in the future. He asked Dr. Solan if he was still comfortable with his request. Dr. Solan answered, yes.

Mr. Grippo said he supports moving this budget forward to the full Board.

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously 3-0.

4. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Ham and seconded by Ms. Rosenberg, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.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: 2/11/2022.

