

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE MEETING HELD IN TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON APRIL 22, 2021 AT 6:45 PM**

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

1. CALL TO ORDER – 6:45 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. PUBLIC COMMENT.

None.

3. FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING.

Dr. Solan shared a presentation (on file) with the Board on COVID-19 Grant Funding entitled, "Bouncing Forward" because we want to be an even better organization post COVID. He explained that there are three federal grants from which we receive funding:

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) – I (\$706,075)

This grant had to be expended by December, 2020. Funds from this grant were used for PPE, technology, cleaning, substitutes, bus/isolation room monitoring, and tents.

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) – II (\$439,559)

This Grant has to be expended by September, 2023. It will be used for the same items as the ESSER I Grant plus academic supports, school safety, and social-emotional wellbeing of the students.

American Rescue Plan (\$1,091,741)

This Grant is for costs through September, 2024. They are awaiting details on this funding, but expect that it will be similar to the ESSER II Grant.

Dr. Solan explained that they would like to use these resources to supplement our budget, utilizing the grant money to provide resources to address various needs the pandemic has

created beyond the typical operational budget. He said there will be great need for these funds as we come out of the pandemic.

Mr. Masciana reviewed the grant fund use:

2020-21 COVID-19 Related Revenue (Updated as of 3-12-2021)		
Elementary & Secondary Emergency School Relief Fund (ESSERF) *		\$85,264
* This funding was provided under the CARES Act. The total amount allocated to Cheshire totalled \$99,144 of which \$13,880 went to non-public schools).		
ESSER 1 - Coronavirus Relief Funds (For costs thru 12-31-2020)	Grant Application Submitted by CPS 10-1-2020	Final Grant Funding Request Submitted and Received 2-2021
Personnel Costs		
Personnel - Cleaning/PPE/Health/Safety	\$11,012	\$30,434
Personnel - Transportation	\$75,063	\$55,265
Personnel Costs - Total	\$86,075	\$85,699
Non-Personnel Costs		
Contracted Services for Cleaning/Health/Safety	\$457,495	\$402,249
Supplies - Sanitizing, Disinfecting, FFE - School Buildings	\$100,654	\$99,295
Supplies - PPE - School Buildings	\$41,851	\$116,832
Supplies - Cleaning/Health/PPE - Transportation	\$20,000	\$2,000
Non-Personnel Costs - Total	\$620,000	\$620,376
Personnel and Non-Personnel Cost Total	\$706,075	\$706,075

Dr. Solan reviewed the grant fund projected use for 2021-2022:

Academic Supports, Learning Loss, Learning Acceleration and Recovery

- English Language Learners and students in need of intervention supports.
- Focused professional development on Accelerated Learning.
- Future assessments/test results may identify additional gaps that will need to be addressed.
- Technology for classrooms.
- School Safety and Social-Emotional Well-being of the “Whole Student” and of our School Staff.
- Extensive professional development on the CASEL Standards and responsive teaching practices.
- Summer Transition Program that will address the nearly 700 students who have not attended school in person since March 11, 2020.
 - Five day camp in August held at each school facilitated by mental health professionals, teachers, and administrators from the respective school building.

- The camp focus will be on reducing anxiety, building academic and personal self-confidence, and reintroducing (or introducing for students new to that building) school routines.
- Budget for supplies, transportation, and staffing: \$25,000.
- Closing Achievement Gaps and Coaching Acceleration
 - Adding and restructuring administrative resources to closely monitor the performance of students who need additional support.
 - Adding Reading and Math Supports.
 - Extending or adding Learning Support Tutors at the elementary and high school level.
 - Increase Elementary Assistant Principal support at Doolittle (from .3 to 1), at Norton (from .3 to .6), and Chapman (from 0 to .4). Add a full time elementary Reading and Math Specialist (Highland/Darcey). High School and Middle School Math Support teachers. We can likely stretch resources further by promoting internal candidates for these short term positions and hiring talented replacements on a lower step.
 - Budget for supplies and staffing: \$189,000.
- School Safety and Social-Emotional Wellbeing of the “Whole Student” and of our School Staff
 - Utilizing a nationally renowned consultant (Mike Anderson) to provide professional development and classroom coaching.
 - Professional growth is focused on the CASEL Standards and responsive classroom strategies.
 - Budget for supplies and staffing: \$50,000.

Dr. Solan reviewed the Supplemental Budget Request for 2021-22:

COVID-19 Supplemental Budget Request for 2021-22		<i>Updated as of 4/6/2021</i>	
POTENTIAL COVID-19 RELATED EXPENSE DESCRIPTION	Fiscal Year 2021-22	Fiscal Year 2022-23	Fiscal Year 2023-24
Address Learning Loss Needs	\$225,000	TBD	TBD
Tent and Table Rentals - Fall of 21 only	\$150,000	TBD	TBD
Intraday Cleaning/Sanitizing/Disinfecting	\$108,000	TBD	TBD
Classroom Sanitizing Supplies (Hand, Wipes, Sprays)	\$105,000	TBD	TBD
Building Maintenance Disinfecting Supplies	\$105,000	TBD	TBD
Continuation of Furniture and Equipment Storage	\$101,300	TBD	TBD
Continuing unemployment claims	\$60,000	TBD	TBD
20 Additional Broadcast Classrooms	\$60,000	TBD	TBD
Additional Building Related Expenses (Signs, HVAC, etc.)	\$47,500	TBD	TBD
Personal Protective Equipment (Masks, Gloves, Shields)	\$45,000	TBD	TBD
Summer School - Credit Recovery - July and August 2021	\$25,000	TBD	TBD
Cost of additional substitutes	\$15,000	TBD	TBD
Return to School Transition for Remote Learners - August 2021	\$20,000	TBD	TBD
Isolation Room Monitors	\$12,500	TBD	TBD
Bus Monitors	\$10,000	TBD	TBD
Potential Total COVID-19 Related Costs before Grants	\$1,089,300	TBD	TBD
Less Esser II Funding (\$439,000 to be used by 9-23)	\$439,559	-	-
Less American Rescue Plan Funding (\$1,091,741 to be used by 9-24)	\$1,091,741	\$221,000	\$221,000
Potential Net Total COVID-19 Related Costs to Operating Budget	-\$442,000	TBD	TBD

Discussion:

Mr. Grippo thanked Dr. Solan and Mr. Masciana and said that this plan will maximize the funding that we will receive. Dr. Solan recalled that last spring, the Board was supportive of putting cameras and technology supports in classrooms. When the pandemic is over, our students will continue to benefit of this technology.

Ms. Harrigan asked about the new positions and if they will remain in our budget. Dr. Solan said no, right now they are critical for learning supports. In the short term, these people are responsible for coaching our staff.

Mr. Martelli asked if the summer school is only for those students who were remote. Ms. Silano said no, they will identify any students who may have a difficult time attending school and invite them to the program. Dr. Solan said the plan is to hold programs at each building.

Ms. Ham asked about remote students next year and the percentage of classrooms that will be wired for broadcast. Dr. Solan responded that while they prefer to have all students in-person, he recognizes that there may be some students who remain remote, mostly at the high school level.

4. **AUDIT OF STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNTS.**

Due to time constraints, the Committee agreed to discuss this topic at the Business Meeting immediately following this Finance Committee of the Whole.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Ms. Harrigan and seconded by Mr. Grippo, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Grippo, Finance Committee Chair

Attest:

Carol K. Jesensky, Board of Education Clerk

Filed at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Cheshire: May 14, 2021.