

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FINANCE MEETING
HELD IN HUMISTON BOARD ROOM ON MAY 3, 2022 AT 6:30 PM**

Finance Committee Members Present: Adam Grippo, Chair; Faith Ham

Finance Committee Members Absent: Samantha Rosenberg

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

I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:31 P.M.

- A. *Roll for Quorum.* The roll was called and a quorum was 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.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

III. DISCUSSION REGARDING POTENTIAL STOP GRANT APPLICATION

Superintendent Solan explained, that he and Tom Veivia, a school security consultant, have reviewed the STOP Grant (Stop Violence Grant Program) which is provided through the Bureau of Justice. This program is designed to improve school security by providing students and teachers with the tools they need to recognize, respond quickly to, and help prevent acts of violence. There are \$43 Million in federal funds available to states and local governments. The funding can be used over three years with no match requirement, but you do have to have a sustainability plan for when the funding ends. The Superintendent said the sustainability portion is the reason he is bringing this to the Board of Education for consideration. Dr. Solan said they may be able to use the funding for training, teen mental health first aid, and also some things that they are already doing in the district. Another possibility is to use the funding for a school security officer. The Superintendent said he does not have a formal plan to present tonight. Dr. Solan said the deadline to submit the grant application is June.

IV. DISCUSSION REGARDING REDUCTIONS TO THE 2022/2023 BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET

Mr. Masciana explained that the Town Council approved the Town of Cheshire budget and reduced the Board of Education Budget by \$450,000. He distributed a worksheet and reviewed a potential list of reductions by line item.

Teachers' Salaries (113) would be reduced by \$300,000. This would come from the 6 known retirements and resignations.

Pension/Retirement (204) would be reduced by \$66,409. Our actuaries provided an update and reduced the amount we need to fund to the Town of Cheshire Pension Plan.

Pupil Services (323) would be reduced by \$5,000. We are currently running below budget on that line item. This account covers consulting services for students.

Other Professional Services (330) would be reduced by \$10,000. This account includes legal fees and technology services. Even with this reduction, there is still a small increase to this account.

Rentals/Leases (440) would be reduced by \$18,900. This reduction is coming from our multi-function printer leases. We have several machines that are still in use, but their lease is ending, which allows us to purchase the machine for \$1.00 with no ongoing lease payments.

Communications (531) would be reduced by \$11,191. Mr. Masciana explained that this account was bumped up the last few years in anticipation of needing more communication regarding School Modernization, but feel they can reduce it and still have enough to handle any communications that need to go out.

Other Services (590) would be reduced by \$2,500.

Capital Equipment (732) will be reduced by \$36,000. This account is used to fund technology purchases and it can be reduced because we received a \$650,000 E-Rate Grant and were able to purchase 1,800 replacement Chromebooks through that grant, so we have room to reduce the line item. The impact of the reduction is that we will potentially postpone five smart-panel replacements.

Committee members discussed the recommended reductions.

V. POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE 2022/2023 BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET

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

MOVED that the Cheshire Board of Education Finance Committee recommend to the full Board of Education a Budget for the fiscal year 2022/23 of \$80,664,420 as appropriated by the Cheshire Town Council. Further, the Board of Education reduces its 2022/23 Budget Recommendation by \$450,000 as follows:

1. Certified Salaries	\$ 300,000
2. Non-Certified Salaries	\$ 0
3. Employee Benefits	\$ 66,409
4. Instructional Expense	\$ 5,000
5. Support Services	\$ 78,591
6. Operations & Maintenance	\$ 0
<i>Total Reductions</i>	<i>\$ 450,000</i>

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously by those present.

VI. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE 2023/2024 BUDGET

Dr. Solan said he thinks the STOP Grant and the ESSER Grant will factor into the budget. He said the biggest influence will be the School Modernization Plan and enrollment. He said they will be able to have better conversation in the fall after the referendum. If the referendum does not pass, we will need to purchase portable trailers. He and Mr. Masciana have a conference call set up to speak with a representative to be prepared. In addition, if the project does not go forward we will have to look at Capital Expenditures that have been put off for some time. Other issues that will need to be reviewed are food services and staffing. The Committee continued discussions around increased enrollment, space needs and special education costs. The Committee decided to meet in early August and again in November, after the referendum.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Ham and seconded by Mr. Grippo, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 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 17, 2022.