

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF THE WHOLE HELD IN DODD MIDDLE SCHOOL  
ON JANUARY 24, 2023 AT 7:00 PM**

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Board Members Present: Anthony Perugini-Chair; Adam Grippo-Vice Chair; Anne Harrigan-Secretary, Faith Ham, Andrew Martelli, Samantha Rosenberg, Timothy White (7:07)

Board Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Jeffrey F. Solan, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; Vincent Masciana, Chief Operating Officer, Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Robin-Anne Carey, Director, Pupil Personnel Services; Mike Woods, Principal-Dodd Middle School; John Perosino, Assistant Principal-Dodd Middle School; Diana Burns, Principal-Chapman Elementary School; Kelly Grillo, Principal-Norton School; Kevin Hanlon, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator; Christina Sherwood, Supervisor of Elementary Special Education; Marie Broadway, Supervisor of Secondary Special Education; Ryan Murphy, Community Engagement Coordinator.

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**1. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 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. Perugini led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. He then turned the meeting over to Mr. Grippo, Chair of the Finance Committee.

**2. AUDIENCE**

None.

**3. PUBLIC BUDGET REVIEW AND DISCUSSION REGARDING SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDED BUDGET.**

Mr. Grippo turned the meeting over to Mr. Masciana who said tonight he will be providing an overview of the remaining budget categories of Instructional Expense, Support Services and Maintenance and Operations. Mr. Masciana began by providing an update on the pension and the valuation.

Mr. Masciana reviewed the Instructional Expense Account, which is 5.4% of the requested budget, a 2.37% increase.

He said some of the increases are to bring funding levels to where they should be because they have been underfunded due to budget reductions.

		EXPENDED	BUDGET	PROJECTED	RECOMMENDED	CHANGE	% inc/ % dec
		2021/22	2022/23	2022/23	2023/24	(From BGT)	
130	STAFF TRAINING	\$ 201,643	\$ 186,700	\$ 186,700	\$ 189,200	2,500	1.34%
323	PUPIL SERVICES	\$ 774,368	\$ 801,468	\$ 801,468	\$ 808,888	7,420	0.93%
560	TUITION OUTPLACEMENTS	\$ 2,098,992	\$ 2,252,214	\$ 2,252,214	\$ 2,252,214	0	0.00%
611	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLY	\$ 515,022	\$ 440,147	\$ 440,147	\$ 490,159	50,012	11.36%
641	TEXTBOOKS/SOFTWARE	\$ 303,246	\$ 427,500	\$ 427,500	\$ 455,000	27,500	6.43%
642	LIBRARY/PERIODICALS	\$ 43,129	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 64,288	4,288	7.15%
643	CURRICULUM MATERIALS	\$ 10,619	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	0	0.00%
644	LIBRARY/MEDIA SUPPLIES	\$ 28,578	\$ 41,929	\$ 41,929	\$ 45,597	3,668	8.75%
645	TESTING SUPPLIES	\$ 47,105	\$ 69,926	\$ 69,926	\$ 69,926	0	0.00%
689	ADULT EDUCATION SUPPLIES	\$ 16,437	\$ 16,650	\$ 16,650	\$ 16,820	170	1.02%
730	REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT	\$ 165,766	\$ 118,750	\$ 118,750	\$ 125,000	6,250	5.26%
731	NEW EQUIPMENT	\$ 166,219	\$ 118,750	\$ 118,750	\$ 125,000	6,250	5.26%
	INSTRUCTIONAL EXPENSE	\$ 4,371,124	\$ 4,559,034	\$ 4,559,034	\$ 4,667,092	\$ 108,058	2.37%

He reviewed the historical Special Education costs and noted that the number of identified students has increased dramatically this year and is driving some of the budget request increase. He said the cost for a special education is about two-times the cost of a regular education student.

Mr. Masciana introduced Robin Anne Carey, Director of Pupil Personnel Services who gave a presentation to the Board. She provided an update on the Transition Coordinator whose position was added during last year’s budget proposal and hired this year. She said this position has been a tremendous asset. She reviewed that a main focus over the last few years has been on student executive function response inhibition, working memory, emotional control, sustained attention, task initiation, planning and prioritizing, organization, time management, goal-directed persistence, flexibility, metacognition. They are focusing on identifying and addressing executive functioning deficits. She reported that they have implemented the state-mandated CT-SEDs data system. Students with IEPs have increased by 154 students since 2017/18 and 6 Special Education Teachers. Ms. Carey said we have about 16 out-of-district placements.

Ms. Carey reviewed the positions requested in this budget including a Special Education Teacher Resource to help with the larger caseload. In addition, they are requesting a .5 increase in Speech/Language Pathologist and 1.4 FTE BCBA Support. Ms. Carey reviewed the reasons for her request.

There was an extensive conversation with Board members asking for clarification on the request and the program in general.

Mr. Masciana continued his review of Instructional Expense. The request also includes professional development and new textbooks/resources for students.

The Board agreed to continue their review of the two remaining accounts, Support Services and Maintenance and Operations at the next meeting on January 26.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Martelli, and seconded by Mr. Grippo, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Anthony Perugini, Board Chair

Attest:

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Carol K. Jesensky, Board of Education Clerk

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