

GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

70 Waterford Street, Gardner, MA 01440

Finance Sub-Committee Meeting

Monday, February 7, 2022

In-Person meeting at 12:30pm

Minutes

Members Present: Mr. LaFreniere (Chair), Mrs. Pelavin, Mr. Swartz

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Pellegrino, Superintendent; Mr. Mark Hawke, Director of Finance & Operations

Mr. LaFreniere called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Swartz and seconded by Mrs. Pelavin to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2022 Finance Subcommittee meeting. So voted 3-0.

Expense Report Review:

The Committee reviewed the Expense Report. Mr. Hawke noted the following:

1. Substitute Teacher lines in Regular and SpEd are starting to run negative. This is not a surprise due to the number of teachers out this year.
2. Electric at GHS is in the negative despite having plenty of funds. This seems to be a problem with the PO.
3. Computer Software at GMS is negative as Moby Max was not in the budget. This negative will be covered by existing funds.
4. ESS Teachers line continues to drop. We have re-couped in excess of \$50k from the state COVID sick pay fund.
5. There are a few timing issues creating other negatives.

Mr. Swartz inquired about 13110-51218 Fire and Police. This account is used to pay for details, almost exclusively at sporting events.

Mrs. Pelavin inquired about 13960-51090 Clothing/Uniform Allowance. This account pays the contractual clothing/uniform allowance. It was under budgeted. The negative will be made up from existing funds in the budget.

Projects Update:

Mr. Hawke gave an update on some of the major ongoing projects to include:

- The counseling offices at GHS are completed.
- The GHS Landry Auditorium project is still underway and painting and work on the seats will begin this week.
- GMS Lockers are still in process.

New Business:

Mr. Hawke spoke to the budget sheets. Highlights included:

1. A \$2.2 million increase in Chapter 70 funding was included in House 1.
2. The Mayor has stated he is carrying \$500k for an appropriation over NSS.
3. Total payroll accounts are increasing 12.8%. This includes all prior year ESSER funded positions as well as contractual increases and step and lane changes.
4. There are \$205k in additions being considered at this time. The Facilities position will be primarily for grounds maintenance and would offset an expense of the same amount.
5. Budgeted Costs that do not apply to NSS are increasing \$319k. This is due to the addition of a 10th Reg Ed bus, the addition of a 5th SpEd bus and Foster Care transportation increasing \$47k.
6. Indirect Costs are decreasing by \$57k. This is due in large part to a re-negotiated Indirect Cost Agreement that reduces the charge for the Per Pupil Administrative Cost Allowance and School Safety Office as well as a correction in the calculation of Medical, Dental and Life Insurance.

Discussion occurred about the timeline going forward and the process.

A motion was made by Mr. Swartz and seconded by Mrs. Pelavin to adjourn the meeting.

So voted 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.