

GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

70 Waterford Street, Gardner, MA 01440
Finance Sub-Committee Meeting
Monday, March 7, 2022
In-Person meeting at 12:30pm

Minutes

Members Present: Mrs. Pelavin (Chair pro-tem), Mr. Swartz

Members Absent: Mr. LaFreniere

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

Mrs. Pelavin 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 February 7, 2022 Finance Subcommittee meeting. So voted.

FY23 Budget Review:

Mr. Hawke reviewed the budget sheets with the Committee. Questions were raised and answered during the presentation. The FY23 Budget has a \$795,735 shortfall that will be covered using ESSER funds. This shortfall was approximately \$400,000 two weeks earlier. Joyce West, Director of Pupil Personnel Services informed us of several new students to the district that are already placed in outside settings.

Expense Report Review:

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

- The Substitute (Teacher, Para, Etc.) lines will all be in the negative or going in that direction. This is due to all of the coverage needed during the Covid spike. This is for all the schools. This shortfall will be made up closer to the end of the year.
- The Substitute Nurse lines have been replenished as the grant funds have been received.
- The Police and Fire line is for details for the various sporting events, it is negative, but we will make it up within the budget closer to the end of the year.
- All Gas and Electric accounts may not have been budgeted for correctly due to the pandemic. The shortfall will be made up from within the budget closer to the end of the year.
- Custodial supplies at GMS is negative due to the unbudgeted use of paper towels. During the height of the pandemic, the hand dryers were turned off and paper towels needed to be purchased. The dryers are back on now.
- The Principal at WSS received a salary bump for handling two schools, which is why that is negative.
- The Professional Services line item for the district is negative due to the outsourced SPED teacher.

- All of the negative accounts will be made up from within the existing budget. The ESS Teachers negative line continues to drop. Last month it was over \$300k in the red, this month about \$276k in the red.

Projects Update:

Mr. Hawke gave an update:

- The GHS Landry Auditorium project is still underway. The seats are now being re-assembled and the carpeting work is complete.

New Business:

Pre-K tuition review:

Mr. Hawke presented a breakdown of costs for the Pre-k program. A lengthy discussion ensued as to the makeup and process of the program. Joyce West is looking at other districts charges. It was decided to invite Joyce West to the next meeting to continue the discussion.

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

So voted 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.