

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

PLACE: ROBERT E. ZURAW, ADMIN. OFFICE BLDG. DTL **DATE:** 02 April 2019 **TIME:** 6:00 P.M.
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: Christopher Phipps, chair

I. OPENING

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Roll Call

| MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE | PRESENT | ABSENT | LATE |
|-------------------------------|---------|--------|------|
| MR. VINCENT SCARLATA | X | | |
| MR. WILLIAM NIMONS | X | | |
| MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS, chair | X | | |
| TOTAL | 2 | 0 | |

II. Public Comments

There were no comments.

III. Discussion and possible action regarding Ansonia BOE vs. City of Ansonia litigation.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Lisa Jones reported to the Board that the funds have been transferred and it affects the bottom line of the budget for this current year and is shown in the spreadsheet. ATTACHMENT #1

IV. Discussion 2018-2019 Budget.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Jones explained the summary that was passed out along with a projection expense sheet through the end of the school year. She said the addition of the \$800 thousand is displayed separately so it will be clear to see exactly where that money is being spent. Ms. Jones said the first payment of Excess Cost was also made. Mr. Phipps asked what our insurance costs look like at this point. Ms. Jones said the year to date expenditures look good, in March there was an increase but if needed, there is a reserve that can be used to offset the rise. She said there were a couple of cases that hit the stop loss which will allow a savings to build. She said that is one area that was addressed in the audit and since we are self-insured we should be able to hold at least 20% for a cushion. She said the \$800 thousand is going to offset any deficit that shows on the summary sheet. Mr. Scarlatta asked if the \$800 thousand had stipulations as to exactly where the money has to be spent. Ms. Jones said it was not, the money can be spent anywhere in the budget.

V. Discussion and possible action regarding Transportation Contract

DISCUSSION: Ms. Jones reminded the Committee that last year this contract was extended and not voted to be renewed for another five years. She said it was decided to go out another two years. She said it would be best to plan soon for an RFP. Mr. Phipps asked if there is a possibility to combine with any other district. Ms. Jones said the decision last year to only go out for two years and not five like the surrounding towns will make it difficult to find any opportunity to share services since they are already in an existing contract. She said the VOAG schools and Special Ed shared services are currently being done. She said there is also a bus driver shortage and that may cause a conflict with All-Star. She said she is going to bring up the possibility of coaches being trained to transport teams. Mr. Phipps said the shortage would not be the district's problem. He said the obligation lies on

the bus company and is part of a contract, not the district having to train drivers. Ms. Jones said she would like to go out to bid before the end of the school year and agreed with Mr. Phipps.

Recommendations: to go out to bid for a five year contract.

MOTION: To recommend to the full Board to go out to bid on a five year transportation contract.

| | MOTION | YES | NO | ABSTAIN |
|-------------------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|
| MR. VINCENT SCARLATA | 1 | X | | |
| MR. WILLIAM NIMONS | 2 | X | | |
| MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS, chair | | X | | |
| TOTAL | | 2 | 0 | |

VI. Discussion regarding Phoenix Financial Software System.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Jones said she became aware in December that Power School is going to be ending Phoenix, the current financial software system Ansonia uses. She says the date is June 30, 2020. She said the city uses the same system so they will be impacted as well. She said there was a meeting with the city's financial department regarding possible vendors and will ultimately come down to cost. Ms. Jones said the updated version of Power School's system looked interesting as well as a few others that were looked at. She said there is a lot to consider and research will have to take place. Mrs. Merlone suggested having surrounding districts that utilize the system try to collaborate something together.

VII. Discussion and possible action regarding In-Kind agreement with City (Excess Cost).

DISCUSSION: Ms. Jones said this February 2017 agreement with the city has expired last year but since there was no discussion the agreement was still in place this year. Mr. Phipps asked if she thinks we should continue. Ms. Jones said the result of Excess cost is due to funds that the district pays and should be used by the district. She said she would agree to the In-kind agreement, provided the budget is over, and the city is reimbursing the district from these funds. Ms. Jones said she doesn't think the agreement needs to exist but we should agree to continue to contribute to the insurances and the city will continue to reimburse our Special Ed costs. She said the amount received is based on the amount that is reported to the state by the Board of Ed. She reminded the Committee that the reason for the agreement in the first place, was because the city did not want to reimburse the funds. Ms. Jones said there will be meetings with members from the city to combine and move toward transparency. She said this includes workers compensation and liability insurances.

VIII. Discussion and possible action regarding correspondence from Mr. Lorie Vaccaro.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Jones told the Board she received a letter from Alderman Lorie Vaccaro and she does not believe it is her place to answer in any way. She said he is looking for opportunities for shared services. Ms. Jones said it came to her and she wanted to provide the letter to the Board. She said the letter came late February 2019.

Mrs. Merlone said #5 is currently being done.

Ms. Jones said the committee just had the discussion with regard to #6 and everyone felt comfortable.

Ms. Jones said the meetings are currently taking place between the city and the Board of Ed.

Ms. Jones said #1 suggestion regarding the employee contracts being shared are posted on the district website. She said there can be links to have that appear on the city's website as well.

Mr. Phipps and Mrs. Merlone agreed this was a great idea, but noted the city's employee contracts are not accessible on any website. Ms. Jones said if discussion of sharing an HR employee came up, it should be more under the Board of Ed due to certifications and requirements for the educational aspect of employment.

Ms. Jones said this leaves two items from the requests.

Mr. Nimons said after speaking to Seymour and their shared services with the city, it was noted that the employees are under the Board of Education Department.

Ms. Jones said she would be in favor and open for discussion for any other possibility to share services if it will be beneficial. She said the work in progress continues to move forward with Ms. Kim Destefano.

IX. Public Comments.

Mrs. Nina Phipps asked if the transportation issue might help if baseball and softball go together to the same location using one bus instead of two. Mrs. Merlone said she would ask Mr. Brockett.

Respectfully submitted,



Cassie Venson
Recording Secretary
Date: 4/07/19