

Suffield Board of Education
Finance & Facilities Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2020
Held Remotely

Present: Michael Sepko, Melissa Finnigan, Sue Davis, Glenn Gazdik, Maureen Sattan, Superintendent Timothy Van Tassel, and Business Manager Bill Hoff

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. FY21 Budget Update

Mr. Hoff and Superintendent Van Tassel discussed a request by the Board of Finance to reduce the budget by \$400,000, mostly as a result of the reduced school expenditures due to schools being closed because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

- Superintendent Van Tassel stated the BOF is seeking a 0% tax increase for this budget season based on Covid19 concerns.
- Discussion around this reduction could be realized by using this year's budget surplus because of school closings toward next year's budget through a combination of the following:
 - The current projected surplus of \$243,000
 - Savings from Substitutes, Spring Sports Coaches, unfilled staffing positions and Instructional Supplies
 - We expect savings from Bus Service, but the amount is still being negotiated.
- The budget reduction for 2020-21 would be accomplished by moving some current year expenses from Open Choice to the BOE budget to increase the 2019-20 end of year Open Choice balance and moving some 2020-21 budget items to the Open Choice grant.
- Discussed setting up a 1% unexpended funds account – this is a new proposal that would create a capped 1% fund to allow for emergency use of funds around limited types of district services (such as special education variances) as outlined in a MOU.
- Sue Davis and Michael Sepko ended the call stating they would discuss these items with the Board of Finance.

III. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.