

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

PLACE: ANSONIA HIGH SCHOOL, LECTURE HALL DATE: 10 January 2018 TIME: 4:30 P.M.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: William Nimons, chair

I. OPENING

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Roll Call

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	PRESENT	ABSENT	LATE
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA	X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS	X		
TOTAL	3	0	

II. **RECOMMENDATION for adjustments to the 2017-2018 Budget line items for the city – BOE agreement of February 14, 2017(Special Education, Workers Comp, Insurance, Pension & Portables).**

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nimons declared a quorum and asked Ms. Lisa Jones to go over the recommendations for adjustments. Ms. Lisa Jones explained the proposal regarding the 2017-2018 budget based on the Board's approval or agreement with the City to transfer \$600,000 that was incurred. She stated she attached the agreement with the proposal and explained this was due to the excess cost to Special Education. It is money that was expected and budgeted for. She said the transaction is merely to put the line item merely in to balance with the current budget. Mr. Phipps asked why it was not in the current budget already. Ms. Jones answered it is basically a "housekeeping" matter. February 14, 2017 was the date the agreement was signed but we did not know what the exact amount was going to be. Mr. Frank Connolly added this is going to be the first of a few adjustments that will need to be made to the current budget. Starting next week, they will be reviewing for any other line items that need to be changed. The adopted budget right now is not lining up exact and this is a start. Mr. Connolly also explained this will tie directly into the upcoming budget for 2018-2019.

MOTION: To accept the recommendation for adjustments to the 2017-2018 Budget Line item.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS	1	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA	2	X		
TOTAL		3	0	

III. REVIEW the Superintendent's proposed FY 2018-2019 Budget

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nimons asked Superintendent Merlone to discuss the content in the proposed budget. Mr. Phipps asked if the funds from the Alliance needed to be spent before June. Mr. Nimons answered the funds do not have to be spent before June. Mr. Phipps asked about the firewall. Mr. Dibacco answered our district was "blacklisted" and needed to roll over and be put back on "whitelist". Continuing to review the budget, Superintendent Merlone commented that she understands it was requested that all required positions be added back into the budget but this proposed amount does not include all of those. She did state the proposed included the missing secretary to be added back as well as a maintenance position that was cut. Mr. Phipps stated he really wants the interventionists and mental health workers that were discussed. Superintendent Merlone suggested these positions will most likely be added through the Alliance Grant. Ms. Jones pointed out the increase in the line items for insurance and stated members from Brown and Brown are going to come and explain the need for this increase. Ms. Jones also stated the claims for insurance were higher which lead to an increase in expense for the current budget. Mr. Nimons asked if anyone asked Mr. Bushura regarding the pension statement. Ms. Jones stated there a few employees who are wishing to look into the pension benefits and she is requesting paperwork from the city. Mr. Nimons asked if this 4.61% increase is denied, is there a backup plan? Superintendent Merlone explained there really is no other choice since this proposed budget does not even include all of the requests the Board wanted to add into the new budget. Mr. Scarlata asked if the first payment of Excess Cost has been made to us. Superintendent Merlone answered that the first payment has not been made. Discussion continued regarding the 4.61% increase recommendation to the Board. It was also mentioned discussion is going to continue next week at another committee meeting.

IV. Any related financial issues

Discussion: The group discussed in great detail the lack of funding continues to hurt the district in all aspects. Superintendent Merlone mentioned one issue she wanted Mr. Connolly to look into was the electrical contract that the Board is currently locked into without their consent. Legal consultation suggested the Board allow Superintendent Merlone to go out to bid and see if there are lower rates of companies. This will also be discussed further after the entire Board can discuss options.

V. Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 5:30pm

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS	2	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA	1	X		
TOTAL		3	0	

Respectfully submitted,



Cassie Venson
Recording Secretary
Date 1/14/2018