

BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: November 11, 2020

Place: Virtual Meeting (using Zoom) as permitted by Executive Order 7b (March 14, 2020)

Present: Kathleen Stowe (chair)
Christina Downey
Peter Sherr
Joe Kelly
Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent
Mr. Sean O'Keefe, Chief Operating Officer

Meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Action items:

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms. Stowe and was seconded by Ms. Downey. Motion passed 4-0

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2020 committee meeting was made by Ms. Stowe and seconded by Ms. Downey. Motion was passed 3-1

Discussion items:

I. Operating:

- This was a discussion about the operating costs were Mr. O'Keefe spoke about the \$169.8 million-dollar budget requested by Dr. Jones which is a 3.97% compared to BET guideline of 3.38%.
- Ms. Stowe asked if this was a bottom's up budget and asked how Mr. O'Keefe approached it. Mr. O'Keefe answered that it was a different approach with the big items being bottoms up. They took a hard look at transportation that is currently flat or even down by \$1000 which is driven by consolidation of routes.
- Working with Eversource on an energy conservation program were LED lighting upgrades are done with no up-front cost to the district. Eversource pays the bill and they would bill us over a four-year period with 0% interest after about a 50% incentive rebate. The savings more than covers the increase in the electric bill. Parkway School has been done and currently working to convert North Street School.
- Mr. O'Keefe communicated that the budget this year was broken down very thoroughly in the hopes to analyze the numbers by not only the school but by

department and would like to in the future further the breakdowns in the hopes of showing opportunities to save and the exposure in over spending.

- The additional points touched on were:
 - Professional development
 - Special Education
 - Salaries
 - Custodial services
 - Allocation model
- Mr. Sherr asked for clarification on the increase of 1.9 million-dollar special education line in regard to how much was already committed from a prior year commitment and also to project into the following year what is already obligated out. Mr. O'Keefe will provide a detailed line item.
- Ms. Stowe suggested a further discussion on the allocation model and suggested our numbers be compared to other districts. Mr. Sherr suggested that the ratios be broken down by department and to then hand it over to the superintendent for further number crunching.

II. Capital

- Mr. O'Keefe reported the request of \$37.9 million as follows:
 - Annual Infrastructure and Facility Improvements (\$16.258 million)
 - Major Projects (\$19.652 million) are WMS, CMS field, GHS stadium and high school entry, and JC
 - Technology (\$1.678 million)
 - Food Service (\$10k)
 - Security (\$340K)

Mr. Kelly spoke briefly on the Greenwich High School stadium project. Questions arose about whether Central Middle School should be repaired or rebuilt.

Ms. Stowe set a deadline for questions to be submitted by Friday at 5pm.

Mr. Kelly motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. and Ms. Stowe seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Kelly