

BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: March 31, 2021

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

Present: Kathleen Stowe (chair)
Christina Downey
Joe Kelly
Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent
Mr. Sean O'Keefe
Peter Sherr (arrived sometime before 11:20)

Meeting was called to order at 11:01 AM

Action items:

A motion to approve the minutes of the 12/9/20 and 2/16/21 meetings was made by Ms. Stowe and seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 3-0.

Discussion items:

I. COVID expenses and related funding:

- Mr. O'Keefe discussed funding amounts from various grants, including, ESSR1 and ESSR2, Covid Relief Fund (CRF) and American Rescue Plan (ARF)
- GPS had received \$758,160 from ESSR 1 which has been expended
- GPS has received \$1,203,684 from CRF which has been expended
- ESSR 2 grant is \$4,268,046, of which \$2,708,306 has been allocated/spent thus far
- ESSR 2 funds can be spent until 9/30/23
- ARF funds of approximately \$10,215,000 can be expended until 9/30/24, but 20 percent must be spent on targeted items relating to COVID slide issues, and remaining 80% to be spent on any of a broad number of categories

There was a discussion amongst the attendees on how to utilize remaining funds. Dr. Jones will be making a presentation to the full Board with her recommendations. Possible uses of the funds included in the discussion were: social workers at the elementary schools, math interventionists at the elementary schools, reading and math intervention at middle school, ALP "superblock" continuing, vacation "boot camps", enhanced summer school particularly at Title I schools, technology, and COVID testing. There was discussion that the expenditures should enhance instruction and focus on student achievement.

II. Update on budget process:

- There have been discussions with members of the BET regarding capital issues before the April 1, 2021 BET budget vote, but Mr. O'Keefe was unaware of any motions to reduce the operating budget.
- The request for interim funding for North Mianus repairs will be before the BET on April 7. Dr. Jones is working on a location for 18 classrooms for the fall during the repair process and waiting to see what the cost of that will be or if covered by insurance.
- Dr. Jones and Mr. O'Keefe will be providing Board members with assignments to attend RTM meetings in connection with the budget process.

Mr. Kelly moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Downey seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 11:57 AM

Approved 05/26/21 – 3-0