

BOF QUESTIONS-JANUARY 25

The BOE discussed the barter agreement that exists between the district and the Darien YMCA and governs the two parties' use of each other's facilities. The discussion around the district not being able to offer its facilities to the YMCA and the resulting fee that the district must now pay to the YMCA raised questions as to the accounting for the revenues and expenses associated with the agreement. Please explain how the district is currently accounting for this agreement, whether it conforms to GAAP / standard accounting practices and how it will be accounted for going forward. Is this agreement documented or just a handshake?

While there is no formal agreement or contract there was a memorandum sent from a previous Superintendent to the YMCA outlining the in-kind service agreement. Currently the district expends approximately \$34,000 in custodial expenses to clean the spaces the YMCA uses after hours and is reflected in RC11.

The district reflects in-kind contributions from the Town on its annual ED001 report. Since this is a non-profit group unrelated to the Town it would not fall into this category. If there was a written contract specifying this arrangement we could record a non-monetary transaction at fair market value for the transfer of goods and services. This would assume that the BOE and the YMCA would otherwise be renting out their facilities to other groups rather than each other. If that would not be the case there would be no record that would have to be recorded.. Without a signed and executed agreement we could not reflect this non monetary transaction on our books as there would be no supporting documentation to validate these entries. We have confirmed this with Blum Shapiro.

[YMCA Memo](#)

The BOE discussed various district revenues (including student parking fees, student activity fees and event spectator fees), which are deposited into the Student Activities Account. We understand these revenues are combined with community donations to fund some of the district's student activity expenses, and that the account lapses from year to year (YE FY20 was approximately \$400,000). Please detail the actual year-end balance for this account for the past 5 years, the funds that have been deposited into the account (break out between donations vs public revenues – no individual names) and the expenditures that have been made from the account.

The student activity accounts balances are as follows:

Fiscal Year	Beg Balance	Additions	Deductions	Ending Balance
FY20	\$416,592	\$1,104,604	\$1,150,436	\$370,760
FY19	\$397,201	\$1,666,543	\$1,647,152	\$416,592
FY18	\$318,396	\$1,563,381	\$1,484,576	\$397,201
FY17	\$463,971	\$1,395,402	\$1,540,977	\$318,396
FY16	\$492,133	\$1,125,681	\$1,153,843	\$463,971

The following items are public revenues (parking fees and gate receipts):

Parking Fees				
Fiscal Year	Beg Balance	Additions	Deductions	Ending Balance
FY20	\$1,293	\$28,189	\$24,057	\$5,425
FY19	\$3,303	\$26,520	\$28,530	\$1,293

Gate Receipts				
Fiscal Year	Beg Balance	Additions	Deductions	Ending Balance
FY20	\$22,179	\$48,633	\$49,471	\$21,341
FY19	\$21,387	\$11,261	\$10,469	\$22,179

**School Cash Online was not implemented prior to FY19 as such the data available prior to that is not as clearly segregated.*

Of the \$370,760 remaining, \$95,227 remains in the District Student Activity account, which is where unused and unencumbered funds are moved to. The remaining balance of the \$370,760 are either items that are encumbered but not spent, or provide the \$1,000 BOE approved balance in each sub-account.

The Student Activity Manual prohibits student activity funds from being used to supplant regular district operating/capital budgets. Funds must be used to supplement student centered activities.

In connection with the BOE's discussion of the YMCA barter agreement, it was mentioned that the families of some, but not all athletes are charged approximately 30% of the district's off-premise facility rental fees. Those sports

Currently, Girls Swimming, Girls Diving and Boys Diving all have rental costs associated with them as shown on page 85 of the budget book. There is no parent contribution of 70% for those sports. Currently, we

that use the Darien YMCA, New Canaan YMCA and Greenwich YMCA appear to be excluded from sharing in those fees. What are the district's costs of all off-premise facilities usage fees (including through barter agreement)? What is the total contribution from all athletes and what additional funds would the district collect if it collected fees from all families using the same formula?

cannot charge Girls Swimming a parental fee as there is no rental cost for the boys swimming team as they exclusively use the YMCA, which does not charge us (excluding COVID school year), while the Girls team uses a facility in Greenwich due to lack of availability at the Darien YMCA. This would create a Title IX issue to charge a girls' athletic team and not a boys' athletic team. However, this is what the charge would look like if implemented:

Girls Swimming: Cost \$4,500 x 70% parental contribution: \$3,150. There are 30 swimmers for a total cost of \$105 per swimmer.

Boys Diving: Cost \$5,500 x 70% parental contribution: \$3,850. There are 2 divers, which would be a cost of \$1,925 per swimmer.

Girls Diving: Cost \$5,500 x 70% parental contribution: \$3,850. There are 6 divers, which would be a cost of \$642 per swimmer.

The BOE budget currently includes approximately \$290,000 in budget control designed to fund additional teachers and/or para-professionals to the extent there are class size breaks that require additional staff, generally in the elementary schools. The Superintendent has indicated that this type of reserve wasn't used in his prior district, and the data provided at a recent BOE meeting suggests that only a fraction of this fund has been used for its stated purpose over the past 5 years. While we appreciate the desire to maximize flexibility, we would like to hear more about the need for this flexibility and the concern over the perceived difficulty of approaching the Board of Finance or RTM for an appropriation should a need arise.

Budget control provides the necessary flexibility to be responsive to changes in class size and enrollment. It also allows the district to hire a teacher when necessary without having to run a deficit due to the timing of asking and receiving a special appropriation.

Issues of supplemental appropriations are matters for Board of Education consideration.

Provide an update on all open capital projects which have been previously appropriated but not yet completed (except Ox Ridge)

- Description of current status of projects
- Original and updated budgets
- Anticipated completion dates

The following projects are open capital projects:

MMS Camera's upgrade. This project spent \$120,035 against a budget of \$160,000 and has just recently been completed. Because it was appropriated in FY21 it has not been closed out yet.

Lockout/Lockdown System was appropriated \$100,000 in FY21 and is currently on hold.

Hindley Roof Replacement was appropriated \$550,000. This was delayed due to COVID as we were unable to get state approval for reimbursement last spring. We have received approval and the RFP is being issued this week with bid openings scheduled for February 18. The project should be done this summer.

Holmes Roof Replacement and skylight was appropriated \$1,004,063.

	<p>This was delayed due to COVID as we were unable to get state approval for reimbursement last spring. We have received approval and the RFP is being issued this week with bid openings scheduled for February 18. The project should be done this summer.</p> <p>Hindley Digital Controls has a budget of \$205,000 with approximately \$10,000 remaining unspent and has some minor control work left that was delayed due to COVID. This is approximately 95% complete and should be done during Spring Break 2021.</p> <p>We would anticipate closing out the following projects with available funds:</p> <p>Upgrade to Fire Panel: \$3,500 Replace DAR59: \$19,631</p>
<p>Provide an update on all design projects that the district is working on for each of its 9 facilities.</p>	<p>The district has been working with John Scheib from Northeast Collaborative to address the removal of the portable classrooms at Hindley, Holmes and Royle as well as the library redesign. The facilities committee is discussing how to prioritize these projects and the scope of each project.</p> <p>NE Collaborative Study</p>