

## **MINUTES**

### **Finance Committee**

Monday, January 4, 2021

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93293331377>

Meeting ID: 932 9333 1377

Phone: (646) 558-8656

#### **Committee Members Present:**

Jim Crocker

George Bauer

Jonathan Kapstein

Michael Devine

#### **Non-Participating Board Member:**

Carol Ann Brown

#### **Also Present:**

Dr. Joseph Olzacki, Superintendent

Wayne McAllister, Director of Finance and Operations

Tina Tanguay, Assistant Director of Finance and Operations

Patrick DiSarro, Communications Specialist

Patricia Paige, Board Clerk

#### **Call to Order**

Mr. Crocker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### **Monthly Budget Report**

The board chair received correspondence referencing the minutes from the Finance Committee meetings in September and November, more specifically the November 17, 2020 minutes, where it was noted, "The district's financial standing, at this point in time, is in a favorable position." Mr. McAllister expanded on those minutes to provide a clearer picture to the requester. He explained that the statement was referring to the October budget shortfall that went from red to black in a short period of time.

The December monthly report was offered for review. Although spending was suspended in November, expenditures on several line items, such as Dues and Fees, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Current 2020/2021 budget challenges include shortfalls in Agriscience Revenue; Special Education Tuition-Agriscience; Pre-School Tuition; Cafeteria Fund and special services needs

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for both incoming and current students with the largest deficit occurring in the cafeteria fund. Not all cafeteria staff will be returning to work on January 19<sup>th</sup> when students return from remote learning. Those individuals will continue to collect unemployment.

Mr. McAllister is currently negotiating with the bus company with hopes of saving some money. While negotiations are different working with a corporation as opposed to a family owned business, he feels confident that there will be some savings realized.

### **Monthly NHS Project Report**

A concern with the project lies with the eligible vs. ineligible costs so that additional borrowing is not necessary. There are 324 change orders and with limited staffing at the state level, less than 10% have been reviewed at this juncture.

The committee continues their review of the final installation check out procedures with items relating to heating, cooling, lighting, etc. as required for sign off of the project.

### **School Lunch Update**

A comparison of lunches and breakfasts served for the same period last year, (through November) was presented with total meals provided down over the prior year.

Revenues and expenditures were also compared within the various learning platforms of Hybrid and Remote. Projected revenue indicates a deficit in the cafeteria fund.

### **AGRISCIENCE Enrollment and Revenue Update**

Mr. McAllister received notification last week that three additional students dropped out of the program, which subsequently impacted the tuition at a cost of \$17,000 with 220 students remaining in the program.

Correspondence was received from the Bethel Public School system today indicating that the their Board of Education voted on December 17, 2020 to switch the designation of the Agriscience program for Bethel students from Nonnewaug High School (Region 14) to Shepaug High School (Region 12) effective during the 2021-2022 school year. The three students from Bethel who currently attend Nonnewaug, will be allowed to finish their program. The correspondence also noted there are currently no grade 9 students who chose to attend an Agriscience program.

When the script was originally created with regards to towns sending to Region 12 versus Region 14, Bethel students were initially to attend Region 12, but their board decided to stay with Region 14, because Region 12 was an untried institute.

A projected enrollment analysis indicates 40 students fading out of the catchment area now owned by Region 14 over the next few years, or down to 182 students by the 21/22 school year from 235 from sending towns.

### **Covid Expense Update**

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Due to time constraints, no update was provided.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia Paige  
Board Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Patricia Paige, Board Clerk, January 6, 2021

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