

MINUTES

Board of Education – Finance/Facilities Committee
Monday, November 7, 2022; 6:00 p.m.
Bethlehem Elementary School
Gymnasium

Committee Members Present:

Chris Matta, Chair
Michael Devine
Jim Crocker

Absent:

Tikva Rose

Also Present:

Brian Murphy, Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations
Pamela Sordi, Principal, Nonnewaug High School
Ed Belinsky, Agriscience
Amy Samuelson, Associate Principal - Architect, S/L/A/M Collaborative
Patricia Paige, Board Recording Clerk

I. Call to Order

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

II. Monthly Financial Summary

Revenue through October 31, 2022 totaled \$12,272,092 or 31.76% of anticipated income. Expenditures for the same period totaled \$13,384,431 or 34.64%. The first Vo-ag tuition as well as the special education tuition have been invoiced. Financials are trending on target.

III. School Lunch Program Update

Updates were provided for the months of September and October. September noted a deficit of \$35,307 with initial inventory purchases and a third payroll cycle as the contributing factors. The month of October yielded a profit of \$15,187, decreasing the overall deficit to \$20,121 through October 31, 2022.

Parents have been notified that the Smart Program, a funding program that allows Region 14 to provide free lunch to all students during the Covid-19 pandemic through the National School Lunch Program will expire at the end of December 2022. Beginning January 3, 2023 families will be responsible for the cost of school meals and were encouraged to complete a free or reduced meal application if they believe that they may be eligible for those services.

IV. Horse Barn Update

The Horse Barn project initiated in 2015 and had an original estimated cost of \$662,000. The projected expense did not include any site work i.e. foundation, prep work, connections to utilities, etc. only the structures. With continuous delays and cost escalations, the project was brought back to the board in February 2020, with a new estimated cost of \$1.6 million, including site work. The state would fund 80% of the project and the board, 20% or \$320,000. The funds are preserved in the district's capital reserve account.

On October 12, 2022, a final commitment letter for the project was received from the state with the total grant dollars now equaling \$1,939,400. The district remains responsible for 20%, or an additional \$67,880 beyond the \$320,000. With board approval, the district's total obligation for the project would be \$387,880.

Principal Sordi expressed her concerns with the plan versus the lack of parking spaces at the high school. To address this point, Ms. Samuelson offered an alternate design that repositioned the barn and other outbuildings on the site, which allowed for some additional parking.

Further discussions stressed the undetermined additional costs to the district and time being of the essence.

Due to time constraints, discussions were tabled for a future committee meeting.

V. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia Paige". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P".

Patricia Paige, Board Clerk