

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Joint Town Finance/BOE Fiscal Committee Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, October 27, 2022
Administration Building Conference Room

BOE Fiscal Committee Members Present:

Mary Kortmann, Committee Chair
Peter DePaola
Emma Eaton
Jennifer Beausoleil, BOE Chairperson

Town Finance Committee Members Present:

Robyn Gallagher, Committee Chair
Julie Blanchard (attending remotely)
Marty Milkovic
Lisa Thomas, Town Council Chairperson

Also Present:

Dr. David J. Petrone, Superintendent of Schools
Robert Carroll, Director of Finance and Operations
John Elsesser, Town Manager
Amanda Backhaus, Town Finance Director / Treasurer

Audience Members Present: There were two observers.

I. Call to Order

M. Kortmann called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. Information: HVAC Grant

Mr. Elsesser noted we are on target. M. Kortmann said the Board and the Town are cooperating. Mr. Elsesser said we need authority to spend the money, but we do not need to borrow more money. He said again, we are in great shape. Dr. Petrone said there are a lot of districts that are applying, but we have all of the pieces in place already.

P. DePaola asked how much of our needs are covered with this project. Mr. Elsesser said all of the high school. He explained some of the details.

R. Gallagher asked for confirmation that the money that was saved on the roofs cannot be used to pay down the money that was borrowed for the bond purpose, because of potential penalties for paying too early. Mr. Elsesser explained that we have annual payments; we cannot prepay and if we hold on to it too long, we would have to pay penalties. He said we were going to have to decide what to do with it anyway. M. Milkovic stated it is

complicated and we have to find a way to message that to the community; this isn't a new bond, and it isn't going to raise taxes and has to be spent.

III. Discussion: CIP Highlights

M. Kortmann reviewed the attachment which included the current projects and their funding.

III.A. Network Refresh

M. Kortmann focused on the Network Refresh item and noted it is still the most important item. Ms. Backhaus said that the work on this has started.

III.B. Classroom Computers

M. Kortmann talked about the classroom computers noting all funds from last year have been spent. She reviewed what is needed next.

III.C. CGS HVAC

Dr. Petrone reviewed saying there were some bids that came in higher than what was budgeted. Mr. Carroll said there are incentives if the bid/work is rewritten. Dr. Petrone said we will limp along with what we have until that can be done.

III.D. CGS Carpet

Mr. Carroll reviewed the remaining carpeting needs at CGS. M. Kortmann said the carpet at the high school has been moved up because the roof is now complete.

III.E. Classroom Furniture

M. Kortmann reviewed how the classroom furniture fund works.

III.F. GHR Exterior Work

Dr. Petrone reviewed the ongoing project that is taking place at GHR. He said supplies have been a challenge. He added that the labor is all being done in-house. M. Kortmann said the sidewalks in the back at CGS will be addressed next.

Mr. Carroll said the grant for the EV chargers have been approved. He said they will be working with Eversource. Mr. Elsesser thanked Mr. Carroll for his work on this project. Mr. Carroll added that this will get us nine charging stations.

Mr. Elsesser said another project the Town and Schools are cooperating on is getting better wi-fi at Patriot's Park.

MOTION: To add talking about the Microgrid to the agenda

By: E. Eaton Seconded: P. DePaola

Result: Motion passes unanimously

III.G. Microgrid Update

Mr. Elsesser said we have a new vendor: Greenskies. He provided additional information about proposed changes to the project. J. Beausoleil noted the design that Greenskies inherited is over 5 years old. Mr. Elsesser said they are looking at and will be updating the design. He said we are in flux, but it is not dead and is getting better.

IV. Information: Food Services Program

Dr. Petrone noted the attachment, which is the plan on how we will spend down the funds in the Food Service account. He reviewed the different items included. Dr. Petrone explained that the additional funds are there because of the federal program that was put in place to provide meals to students year-round. He said we have a certain amount of time to spend the funds and only on approved projects/items.

R. Gallagher asked when the free program will end for families. Dr. Petrone said the state has not had a solid answer. He said Coventry believes they will deplete the funds for this portion of the program by the end of the November.

R. Gallagher talked about the supply chain issues and how we are calculating the projections. Dr. Petrone said Ms. Pratt is very good at being on top of the situation and will keep us apprised. L. Thomas noted families that qualify for free and reduced lunch will continue to receive those benefits.

V. Information: Solar Project at CHS

Mr. Carroll talked about the project's status, which has gone through a variety of changes and challenges. M. Kortmann said there is an arrangement for the project to be sold, once installed, Greenskies. She noted we will still be saving money.

VI. Adjournment

MOTION: To Adjourn the Fiscal Meeting at 6:41 p.m.

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: P. DePaola

Result: Motion carries unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: November 10, 2022