

**Finance Committee Meeting Notes
Crescent Lake School
December 20, 2023 5:00pm**

Present:

GWRSB Finance Committee: Jack Widmer – Team Leader, Tom Bickford, James Pittman, Mary Schillereff

Administration: Superintendent Caroline Arakelian, Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes

Other: Brodie Deshaies, Stefanie King, Charlene Seibel

Subject Matter

Budget Review for FY 2024-2025 – General Fund

Budget Discussion

- Mr. Widmer explained the budget preparation process that involved District Administrators and School Board committee members during the months of October, November, and December. Discussion included the decision to eliminate the Curriculum Project Manager position during the process and the resulting staff and community support for adding the position back to the FY 2024-2025 budget for one final year.

Motion: To recommend to the full board the inclusion of the Curriculum Project Manager position in the FY 2024-2025 budget for one final year.

First: Mr. Pittman **Second:** Ms. Schillereff

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes, Mr. Pittman, Yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

- Ms. O'Blenes explained that the town of Wolfeboro sends impact fees to the District annually, and the resulting reduction in tax assessments. She explained that the town has an established process to calculate the impact fees, unrelated to the school district, as well as the timing of their payment to the District and how this payment offsets the tax assessment for a given year.
- Mr. Widmer described the Human Resources Committee meeting that was held with representatives from GWSSA and Peter Miller on December 12th. He shared that some valid points were presented, but that the contract itself will not be reopened. At the December meeting, Mr. Miller described requests for a retention bonus, a recruitment incentive, benefits for part time employees, an increase in substitute pay, and an increase in para pay when paras fill in for teacher absences. Discussion of these requests ensued and included the possible use of ESSER III funds.

Motion: To support permanently increasing substitute pay from \$100/day to \$150/day for teaching positions, increasing substitute pay from \$75/day to \$125/day for para positions, and increasing para pay to \$25/hour when subbing for teacher positions.

First: Mr. Pittman **Second:** Ms. Schillereff

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes, Mr. Pittman, Yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

- Ms. O'Blenes presented four potential warrant articles:
 - Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund
 - Turf Field Capital Reserve Fund
 - A 1 year repair fund for District facilities
 - A Kingswood Complex SRO appropriation

Motion: To support the first three warrant articles as written by the Business Administrator.

First: Ms. Schillereff **Second:** Mr. Bickford

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes, Mr. Pittman, Yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

Motion: To support the SRO warrant article modified to specify it as a one year position.

First: Mr. Bickford **Second:** Mr. Pittman

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes, Mr. Pittman, Yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

Mr. Widmer asked Ms. O'Blenes that a new budget document be shared with the Finance Committee once the Curriculum Project Manager position is added back in.

Adjournment: 6:45 pm

Recorded by,



Kathy Lagace

School Board Secretary

Approved by School Board: **01/08/2024**