

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: August 11, 2021

LOCATION: Branford High School Lower Media Center
185 East Main Street, Branford, CT

SUBJECT: Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting

ATTENDANCE

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
N	Dawn Perrotti, Committee Chair	Board of Education
Y	Joanne Borrus	Board of Education
N	Peter Berdon	Board of Education
Y	Cristina Cantu	Board of Education
N	Chad Edgar	Board of Education
Y	Meredith Gaffney	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels	Board of Education
Y	John Prins	Board of Education
Y	Dr. Tim Raynor	Board of Education
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Rachel Sexton, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Charles Cicarella, Jr., Student Services Director	Central Office
Y	Donald Neel, Chief Operating Officer (COO)	Central Office

Others present:

CALL

- 01** In Ms. Perrotti's absence tonight's meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by the BOE Chair, John Prins.

APPROVE MINUTES

- 02** MOTION (Michaels/Cantu) to approve minutes from the June 9, 2021 Personnel & Finance Committee meeting. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION/CONSENT ITEMS

- 03** **2021/2022 Monthly Expenditures**
Don Neel reported that the Pupil Services Budget is 3.6% committed, the General Operating Budget is 12.8% committed for a consolidated General Fund commitment of 11%. Mr. Neel also discussed salaries/wages, bargaining unit negotiations, school supply ordering and supply chain problems. Mr. Neel also discussed food services and the Districts participation in the States Seamless Summer Program (free breakfast and lunch).
- 04** **2020/2021 Special Education Tuition & Transportation Monthly Expenditures**
Charles Cicarella, provided the Special Education Tuition & Transportation report. Mr. Cicarella stated that this year's tuition budget was set at 3.1 million dollars, projected expenses right now (students still entering and leaving) are 2.9 million dollars, extended school year expenses are about \$116,000 for projected tuition expenses of about 3 million dollars. Mr. Cicarella also discussed the transportation budget. He reported that the Transportation Budget is about \$879,000, projected about \$807,000 of expenses, combined the budget is 3.99 million, expected expenses of 3.824 million dollars, leaving some residuals of approximately \$166,504 going into June 30, 2022. Mr. Cicarella concluded by saying we are well positioned to start the year.

Continued...

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05 Personnel Report

Don Neel stated that due to the hard work of everyone's (Hamlet, Rachel, Administrators and Talent Services) recruiting and interviewing efforts - ten teachers have been hired with just a few more to go. Mr. Neel also discussed the competition among school districts for teacher candidates, the Bureau of Labor Statistics report issued this week (turnover in public education is at a 20 year low), the District's efforts to recruit early, and ESSER Funds for Districts (teacher's getting multiple offers).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about a District lawsuit and staff turnover.

Ashley Murphy, District parent, spoke about her concern and disappointment regarding the hiring process of Special Education teachers.

Jennifer Orlando, District parent, stated that she wanted to back up Ms. Murphy's statement and urged the BOE to look into what Ms. Murphy discussed.

ADJOURN

**06 MOTION (Michaels/Borrus) to adjourn.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Prins adjourned the meeting at 6:28 PM.

**The next Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting will be
September 22, 2021 at 6:30 PM at Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.**

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Gaffney
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich