

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

DATE: June 15, 2022 **LOCATION:** Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria
185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT
SUBJECT: Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	Meaghan DeLucia, Committee Chair	Board of Education
Y	Peter Berdon	Board of Education
Y	Cristina Cantu	Board of Education
Y	Meredith Gaffney	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels	Board of Education
N	John Prins	Board of Education
Y	Dr. Tim Raynor	Board of Education
Y	Laura Troidle	Board of Education
Y	Marie Watson	Board of Education
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
N	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 The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by Tim Raynor..

APPROVE MINUTES

02 A. MOTION (Troidle/Michaels) to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2022 Personnel & Finance Committee meeting.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- 03** **A. 2021/2022 Monthly Expenditures**
Don Neel reported that the pupil services budget is 89.2% committed, the general operations budget is 98.3% committed for a consolidated general fund commitment of 96.6%. Mr. Neel concluded by saying that “we are on track to return a decent amount of money to the Town.”
- 04** **B. 2021/2022 Special Education Tuition & Transportation Monthly Expenditures**
Mr. Cicarella stated that there we saw some slight increases in tuition and transportation expenses this month, tuition expenses are approximately 3.05 million dollars, transportation expenses sit at approximately \$864,000, combined budgets for tuition and transportation show expenses showing a total of 3.91 million dollars against a budget of 3.99 million dollars, going into June 30th with a projected balance of approximately \$82,000. Mr. Cicarella stated that “we are in great shape barring anything catastrophic happening within the next two weeks.:
- 05** **C. Personnel Report**
Mr. Neel stated that we tried to get ahead of the hiring season by posting earlier this year. It's a very competitive market, but we have already started hiring some new, exciting teaching staff.

Continued...

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DISCUSSION/CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

06 D. ESSER Funds Update

Mr. Neel reported that the major change from two months ago is an increase of about \$900,000 in the committed column and the majority is a commitment to Effective School Solutions (embedded clinicians at WIS & BHS providing mental health support for some of our most challenging students).

Mr. Cicarella discussed the Horizons Programs (name change to Atlas Program) changes in staff, becoming more robust and cutting edge, the need to evolve and its change in population. Mr. Cicarella also discussed Effective School Solutions. He stated that they are an agency that has been around since 2009, they are in 100 districts across 9 states, they design comprehensive clinical programs within schools, they are not separate from schools they are embedded in them in what takes place day to day, they work on a tier level. Mr. Cicarella spoke about the mental health needs of some of our BHS and WIS students and using these services to work with the higher tier students to keep them from going up to higher tiers.

07 E. Solar Project Update

Mr. Neel discussed the Solar Project. Among the items that he discussed were; Greenbank's redesign (to allow for AC units), rates, the schedule including permits and kick off meeting, construction expected to begin in August (6-8 weeks) and hopefully completed by the end of October.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A speaker who did not identify herself, spoke in support of Pride Month.

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about an email that he sent, the personnel report and resignations, exit interviews. Mr. Jerolman also read the resignation of a former board chair and asked about present openings.

ADJOURN

- 07 MOTION (Troidle/Gaffney) to adjourn.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Meaghan DeLucia adjourned the meeting at 7:34 PM.

**The next Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting will be
August 17, 2022, at 7:00 PM at Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.**

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Gaffney
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich