

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: **January 11, 2023** **LOCATION:** **Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria**
185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT

SUBJECT: **Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting**

ATTENDANCE

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
Y	John Prins	Board of Education
Y	Dr. Tim Raynor	Board of Education
Y	Laura Troidle	Board of Education
Y	Marie Watson	Board of Education
N	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 The meeting was called to order at 7:13 PM by Meaghan DeLucia.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about the number of district openings, a personnel matter at Murphy School including the interim principal and the departure of Principal Robin Goeler.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

02 **A. 2022/2023 Monthly Expenditures**

Don Neel reported that the Pupil Services Budget is 70.4% committed, the General Operations Budget is 86.5% committed, for a consolidated General Fund commitment of 83.5%. Mr. Neel stated that a significant chunk from last month is related to the encumbrance of substitutes (both General Operations and Pupil Services), a bright spot in the budget is savings in snow removal, telephones (due to a line audit), Eversource increases have hit us hard (half way through the year and we have expanded 58% of the budget).

03 **B. 2022/2023 Special Education Tuition & Transportation Monthly Expenditures**

Charles Cicarella stated that there was a substantial increase in expenses this month projecting at about \$138,000, compared to last month, \$131,400 projected tuition expenses increase related to changes in our census and \$7,000 in transportation fees that go along with that. Mr. Cicarella stated that we are still well positioned going into the end of the year, the budget is working for us, we can absorb when we have unexpected expenses, we are looking solid still going into the end of the year.

04 **C. Personnel Report**

Mr. Neel stated that there was one certified retirement to date. Mr. Neel concluded his report by answering Board members' questions regarding exit interviews, data and retention.

Continued...

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DISCUSSION/CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

05 D. ESSER Funds Update

In his update Mr. Neel discussed the following; a report format change, focus on spending ESSER II money by next September, the “Fiscal Cliff”, using grant money on recurring costs, moving positions into the general fund, reassessing our priorities (students needs for reading, math and behavioral supports), commitments to address (para wage increase, ESS Program and indoor air quality design), the Reading Program and Summer Learning opportunities (expand this year and next year).

06 E. Solar Project Update

Mr. Neel discussed the following; Murphy shutdown and the tie into the new system done on September 28th, the new inspection was done on the same day by the Town as was the Tisko inspection and we are still waiting for the electrical panels that go on the roof (expected January 23).

07 F. JBS Project Update

Mr. Neel reported that Silver Petrucelli is the firm that is doing the study for us, we received a report as per their proposal that is an assessment of the current building conditions, they have more work to do to complete the cost benefit work for three options that they are examining (10 year phase upgrade, renovate as new – state eligible for funding or brand new), we asked that they be ready in February (not confirmed), they said that the facility is well maintained, endemic challenges (flooding challenges), if use State funding they will not pay for offsite work, fixed conditions (load bearing walls, asbestos in plaster – needs to be abated) significant cost considerations and student location during work.

ADJOURN

- 08** MOTION (Troidle/Raynor) to adjourn.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Meaghan DeLucia adjourned the meeting at 8:06 PM.

**The next Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting will be
February 8, 2023, at 6:30 PM at Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.**

This meeting is a combined Budget Workshop/Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Gaffney
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich