

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

DATE: May 10, 2023

LOCATION: Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria
185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT

SUBJECT: Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting

HERE	ATTENDEE	ATTENDANCE	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
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** The meeting was called to order at 7:11 PM by Meaghan DeLucia.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about the scope of this committee, a District lawsuit, questions regarding recent turnover and the District's budget (line item budget).

APPROVE MINUTES

- 02** A. MOTION (Troidle/Michaels) to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2023 Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- 03** **B. FY 24 Operating and Capital Budget**

Superintendent Hernandez stated that last night the RTM approved the District's Operating (3.25%) and Capital budget (all items approved with a significant majority vote). Don Neel discussed the following: Verkata monies that were appropriated with last year's funds, recommended pathways to meet the reductions proposed at last night's RTM meeting, the State partnership plan, upcoming retirements (4), certified staff on long term leaves not returning, a meeting with First Student (cutting one bus from a route) and the Athletic Director's reduced his budget by \$30,000 without an impact.

MOTION (Prins/Michaels) to recommend the pathway budget to the Full Board.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

- 04** **B. 2022/2023 Monthly Expenditures**

Mr. Neel reported that the Pupil Services budget is 85.2% committed, the general operations budget is 91.9% committed, for a consolidated general fund commitment of 90.6%. Mr. Neel stated that he is happy with where we are right now and there is no new news on the Solar Panel project.

Continued...

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DISCUSSION/CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

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

Charles Cicarella stated that we are on point with our tuition and transportation costs, there are no major changes that we are foreseeing, extended school year services for children will begin in June, we are in a good position going into the end of the year.

06 D. Personnel Report

Mr. Neel reported that the Murphy principal search is going very well and he thanked the Committee. Mr. Neel stated that there was an outstanding pool of candidates and we are on target to recommend someone next week. Mr. Neel continued his report by stating that American employers are in competition for outstanding employees and with that some of our employees have received unsolicited offers. Some of these offers have been from international companies, offering remote work with a 30-45% increase in salaries, we have countered but it is a real challenge.

ADJOURN

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

Ms. DeLucia adjourned the meeting at 7:33 PM.

**The next Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting will be
June 7, 2023, at 7:00 PM at Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.**

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Gaffney
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich