

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE JOINT MEETING
WITH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

REMOTE MEETING

AUGUST 10, 2021

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: October 13, 2021

TIME: 9:01 AM

Present: Ms. Amy Checkoway, Chair
Ms. Meghan Moriarty, Secretary
Mr. Michael Crowley, FSC Chair
Mr. Jamal Saeh
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations

Ms. Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 am by Mike Crowley, Finance Subcommittee and Amy Checkoway, School Committee.

2. FY21 Closeout and Federal Fund Update

Finance Director DiCologero presented the final reports for FY21 to the School Committee and Finance Subcommittee. The School Department has an ending General Fund balance of \$2.39M. By law, this amount is “turned-back” to the Town and flows to Free Cash. In general, the COVID environment created operational changes that led to savings this year including salary and non-salary savings; a number of employees went on leave, including annual leaves due to employee concerns about COVID. Also, many of the expenses incurred during the year were charged to the DESE COVID Grants or, ultimately, to the Town CARES Act Grant. In addition, there were reductions in expenses, such as transportation, where less services were used than during a pre-COVID year.

The formula for predicting the SPED OOD (Out of District) funding strategy was discussed with input from Jack Weiss, a member of the Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee. Chair Checkoway voiced support for more frequent reporting, suggesting on a monthly basis, in order that the SC be kept informed about any changes in the funding sources throughout the year. Going forward, Tony will provide more detail about what may happen with funding when he is reporting to the FSC/SC.

3. Federal Funding Update

On Wednesday , August 18th 2021 Patrice Garvin will provide the Town with an update on Federal Funding during a Public Forum.

The School Committee and School Department voted to move forward with the amount of federal funding to be received: \$456,001 from ESSER II and \$1,001,654 from ESSER III. The funds

will be used for two areas of need: 1. to support students academically and from a mental health perspective; 2. COVID needs in the upcoming year. Knowing that the use of American Rescue Plan funding is still being determined by the Town.

The strategy is to expend \$700K from ESSER II, III grants and \$700K from ARP funds in year one and the same amounts in year two, while being flexible with the needs of the Town and free cash figures. At the next SC meeting, Superintendent Phelan will review the potential needs of the district (COVID parking lot) which included tents, vaccination/ testing costs, PPE, filters, cleaning, home and hospital learning services, technology integration specialists, and RTI para-professionals for Math /English. Specific positions to be hired with ESSER II and III grant funds will also be presented, ranging from summer academic recovery to building substitutes. The SC discussed many of the positions that are in process for hiring and others (approximately \$300K worth) that will be held back until the administration meets with the Town.

4. Finance Subcommittee Organization Discussion

Members of the FSC discussed meeting more frequently during the upcoming year, including joint meetings with the School Committee. It was decided to move forward with this idea. Mr. Crowley will present more concrete ideas during an upcoming meeting.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 am for the Finance Subcommittee and the School Committee.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Meghan Moriarty, Secretary