

# Seymour Board of Education

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 4, 2020  
Virtual  
7:00 pm

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 5/8/2020  
TIME: 11:55am  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

### BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Kristen Harmeling  
Beth Nesteriak  
Ed Strumello

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Michael Wilson, Superintendent of Schools  
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent  
Sherry Holmes, Business Manager  
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk  
Fred Stanek  
Ashley Sirowich  
Zachary Braca

### I. CALL TO ORDER

#### A. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Harmeling called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:06 p.m.

### II. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

#### A. Financial Management Summary ending April 30, 2020

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Nesteriak) to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Financial Management Summary ending April 30, 2020 as presented

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

Ms. Harmeling asked Ms. Holmes to review the information on the Financial Management Summary ending April 30, 2020. She reported:

Seymour Public Schools continues to be shut down until May 20, 2020. Distance Learning is going well in the district and staff have been working very hard under an unprecedented situation. We remain hopeful that we will resume our school operations as soon as possible. The Town Finance Board told the Board of Education to cut the school budget to 1.5%. I have drafted a new financial budget document for your review and vote tonight. Needless to say none of us are very happy about this action taken by the Town Finance Board. The May Excess Cost Grant Payment has been reduced to \$141,183 from \$249,293. A shortfall of \$108,110. I can only assume this is due to the pandemic. Lastly, I am attaching my final March Projection for 2019-20 to this report and by no means is this projection set in stone. A lot of variables went into forecasting this projection and it was revised several times before submitting it to you. Obviously, if we go back to school this year, this projection will change significantly. Ms. Holmes reviewed the accounts: A/C 110-119 Certified Staff-Accounts are on track. We will realize savings in A/C 119 Substitutes-Certified Staff. Substitute Staff are not being paid. A/C 120-140 Non Certified Staff-Accounts continue to remain constant. We will not be paying Delta T during the shutdown so A/C 129 Substitutes-Non Certified Staff will realize savings. As of April 1, 2020 per the Governor's Order, we started paying all paraprofessionals. A/C 210-295 Employee Benefits-Most accounts appear to be trending as projected. The Paid Claims for January through March 2020 need to be posted to A/C 210 Health Insurance as soon as the Town gives us the amount. SS/Medicare A/C 220 will realize a slight savings. The Unemployment Compensation A/C 250 will realize a sharp increase in expenditures during the months of May and June. A/C 411-450-Infrastructure Services. We will continue to pay our contractual obligations in these accounts. Some savings will be realized in A/C 411 Water & Sewer Fees since our buildings are not being utilized to their full capacity. A/C 510-519 Transportation-We have been in negotiations with All-Star Transportation and have reached an agreement with them in April. During the months of April, May and June 2020, the district will pay 53% of the contractual balance due to All-Star Transportation contingent upon school still being closed. Savings will be realized in these

accounts at the end of the fiscal year. A/C 561-564 Tuition-The actual costs of tuition are reflected in the financial statement at this time. We will continue to pay our contractual obligations with other schools as long as they have provided distance learning to our special needs students. A percentage of payment will be negotiated per school based on the Pupil Services Director's recommendation. Our second excess cost grant payment will be received in May 2020 in the amount of \$141,183. A/C 610-690 Supplies-The district has not been spending any funds on supplies unless it is absolutely necessary for student learning. Savings will be realized in A/C 624 Heating Fuel and A/C 625 Bus Fuel. A/C 730-745 Equipment-No changes in these accounts. Ms. Nesteriak and Mr. Strumello did not have any questions. Ms. Harmeling asked if all paraprofessionals were being paid and if they were all working. Ms. Holmes said it was her understanding that they were. Mr. Wilson said all paraprofessionals and nutrition services are working but may not be working their full hours. Ms. Harmeling asked why unemployment costs were up if everyone was working and Ms. Holmes explained this was from when we first closed and some employees were not working and had applied for unemployment before we brought them back. Ms. Harmeling asked if we will get an explanation from the state regarding the reduction in the excess cost money. Ms. Holmes said she was certain we will receive an explanation as we always have in the past. Ms. Harmeling asked about the significant jump in electricity and Ms. Holmes explained that we are catching up on paying our electricity bill. She expects the May bill to go down. Ms. Harmeling said she felt the Finance Committee was out of the loop and asked if the Finance Committee could be briefed on some of the agreements we have with the town. She also asked if we have checked into getting a refund on our liability insurance since we are not playing sports this year and also a reduction in general liability insurance since the schools are not open. Ms. Holmes said they have not yet checked into this. She said there is an upcoming meeting to discuss insurance renewals. When asked about a possible surplus, Ms. Holmes said it possibly would be given to the schools to purchase supplies. She will bring the "wish list" to the Board for discussion before that happens. Ms. Nesteriak asked if the surplus would go to the town. Ms. Harmeling explained that it stays in our budget but must be spent by the end of the fiscal year. Ms. Nesteriak suggested that we look at all of our vendors to see if we can find any savings due to the closing. Mr. Strumello asked if the coaches were being paid if they were not playing. Mr. Wilson said if they did not start playing, they were not paid. He said we paid club advisors as they were already being paid. Ms. Harmeling asked if they were paid in advance and Ms. Holmes explained that it is spread out over ten months. Ms. Harmeling felt it was not fair that spring coaches were not paid but club advisors were paid. She said the spring coaches were expecting this money as well. She felt this was inequitable.

### III. REPORTS

1. Chairman's Report  
None

2. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wilson thanked the Finance Committee for letting Ms. Holmes explain the budget. He acknowledged the hard work of the Central Office team for the time and effort with this budget. He said we are all just trying to do our best.

### IV. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** (Ms. Nesteriak/sec., Mr. Strumello) to adjourn

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk