

Seymour Board of Education FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

June 1, 2020
Virtual - Zoom
7:00 pm

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 6/5/20
TIME: 3:15pm
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
Rob Dyer, Technology Coordinator
Jim Garofolo
Jim Freund
David Olechna
Mary Sue Feige
Jodie Roden
Lauren Reid

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Harmeling called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:05 p.m.

II. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Financial Management Summary ending May 31, 2020

MOTION: (Ms. Nesteriak/sec., Mr. Strumello) to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Financial Management Summary ending May 31, 2020 as presented

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 3-0

Ms. Harmeling asked the committee for questions regarding the Financial Management Summary that was submitted to the committee by Ms. Holmes. Ms. Nesteriak and Mr. Strumello did not have any questions. Ms. Harmeling discussed the potential savings that may be realized due to the schools being closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. While we do not know the amount of savings at this time, Ms. Harmeling feels we should begin to be prepared for year end. She wanted to discuss education funds being placed into a carryover account. Typically all funds are used but this year is different and there may be significant savings realized. There are many moving pieces and we are not ready to make decisions yet but she does feel we should set the funds aside. She asked for input from the Finance Committee. Ms. Nesteriak asked if there is a plan for the estimated savings. Mr. Wilson said there is a list of needed items that would be used if excess funds are available. Ideas would be brought to the Board for approval. Mr. Wilson agrees with putting money into the account. Items would be pulled off the list and the Board would be made aware of the need. He said we don't know where we are this year but it puts us at a good starting point for next year. He said the non-recurring account is a good place to put any funds. Ms. Nesteriak said in previous years, expenditures were made before year end. Ms. Holmes said we can carry the funds into next year if it is in recurring account. Ms. Harmeling noted that we have not used this in the past. There will be some real needs due to the Covid-19 pandemic. She said she likes the security this brings and the primary goal is the continuity of education. Mr. Strumello brought up his concern that the Board of Finance has the final say as to whether the funds will be returned to the Board of Education. Ms. Harmeling said they can cut our budget but they cannot keep the money. Theoretically they already agreed to this with transportation funds. We need to be smart with the funds and make up for losses. The Board of Finance should be understanding. Mr. Strumello said he was confident but leery. Mr. Wilson said the statute should be cited and this will cover Mr. Strumello's concerns. This will help Ms. Holmes' plan come to fruition.

It will help to quell some of the concerns. Ms. Holmes said we must make a request to set up the 2% nonrecurring account. The Town will know what to do; she will send a letter with the request. Ms. Nesteriak said the amount of savings are unknown at this point. It could be in excess or under the allowable 2%. She asked if the no discretionary spending guidelines are still in place. Ms. Harmeling said she would like this to continue and those line items will continue to be frozen. Ms. Holmes explained that nothing is going on at this time. She has submitted an Excel spreadsheet that shows our needs. As time goes on, we will see lots of closing out, paying bills and paying payroll. We will eventually get to the bottom line. She said they are working with vendors for tuition by pushing back and negotiating to reflect the school closures. While there is quite a lot of activity, we are not spending money. As of now the minimum that would go into the account would be \$67,386.

III. REPORTS

1. Chairman's Report
None

2. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wilson thanked Ms. Holmes for the hard work she has put into the budget work. She has been very patient and it is much appreciated. Ms. Harmeling said she echoed everything Mr. Wilson said about Ms. Holmes.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 3-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk