

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, in the Board of Education Conference Room, 47 Main Street, Ellington, CT.

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Liz Nord.

PRESENT Liz Nord, Chair, Jen Dzen, Miriam Underwood, Steve Viens, Angela Moser

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT Mr. Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance and Operations (outgoing)
Ms. Alisha Carpino, Director of Finance and Operations (incoming)
Ms. Stephanie Veturis, Coordinator of Accounting

AGENDA ITEMS

2022-2023 Update

Mr. Greenleaf shared an update regarding the 22-23 budget balance, stating that the closeout of the 2022-2023 budget is almost complete. Mr. Greenleaf also stated that in consultation with the Town Finance office, there would be a request for a transfer from the Unexpended Funds Account and that this was due to a difficult budget year with the district seeing a higher need, with students moving into the district that were already outplaced and one unanticipated outplacement. This will be a motion at the full Board meeting in August.

2023-2024 Update

Mr. Greenleaf provided an update on the Paraeducator Grievance Arbitration case, stating that the administration and board maintained that the contract provides no such benefit and that Health Savings Accounts are a personal account maintained by the employee and on August 1, 2023, the decision from the arbitration's panel was received in favor of the Board of Education.

Mr. Greenleaf discussed certified hiring, stating that with the vacancies and filling those positions, there has been a recognized total savings of approximately \$200,000.

Mr. Greenleaf also provided the committee with an update about CMERS, stating that after advocacy on part of the Ellington Public Schools, and recognition by the State Comptroller that something needed to be done, a working group was put together and due to this, a new employer contribution rate of 15.85% was provided in June. This coupled with staff turnover that positively impacts the retirement account, gives an estimated savings of \$95,000.

Mr. Greenleaf shared information on two budget book corrections, stating that there were two clerical errors that did not affect the overall budget that needed to be fixed and once this was complete a new budget book would be published on the website.

Reading Pilot Program Update

Ms. Nord stated that she met with Assistant Superintendent Barton to discuss the Reading Pilot Program and Mr. Barton shared that a grant will be received for the reading program and that this grant is a two-year grant totaling \$90,000.

Health Insurance Update

Mr. Greenleaf shared that the fund balance for health insurance was \$749,960 without the IBNR (Incurred but not reported). Mr. Greenleaf stated that even though the health insurance fund balance goal was \$1,000,000, he feels comfortable with the status of the account.

Food Service Update

Mr. Greenleaf shared that the food service management bid process was complete and that the winner of the bid was Whitsons. He stated that this was a one-year contract with the option to renew each year for four years after the first year.

Anticipated Executive Session

MOTION

First: Liz Nord

Second: Miriam Underwood

To enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing personnel negotiations and school security and to invite Directors of Finance and Operations, Alisha Carpino and Brian Greenleaf into the session.

Motion carried unanimously.

Executive session ended at 7:04 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

First: J. Dzen

Second: M. Underwood

To adjourn the meeting of the Finance Committee (7:05 p.m.)

Motion carried unanimously.