

**Minutes**  
**Finance Committee**  
**November 13, 2018**

Present:

Jacqueline Blechinger, Committee Chair  
Gina Albert, Committee Member  
Tony Pesco, Committee Member  
Dr. William McKersie, Superintendent of Schools  
Richard Rudl, Director of Finance and Operations

Guests:

Michael Rizzo, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services

Public:

Ellen Uzenoff, Weston Resident

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Blechinger at 8:17 a.m.

The Committee discussed the following items regarding the monthly financial update including internal services fund (for dental):

- Mr. Rudl reported a projected fund balance for FY 2019 of \$72,510 excluding SPED encumbrance holds and negative (\$222,990) including SPED encumbrance holds. Encumbrances total \$34,398,448 and SPED encumbrance holds total \$295,500 against a budget of \$51,444,906.
- Mr. Rudl informed the Committee that the report reflects transfers totaling \$242,345. Of these transfers, seven are in excess of \$5,000. These include \$70,000 for unilateral settlements for special education, \$54,557 to cover an additional special education para educator as recommended by an IEP, \$30,000 to cover legal fees for special education which continues to trend higher, and \$19,295 for health insurance for a special education para educator.
- Mr. Rudl reported that there is a potential shortfall of (\$347,408) to the budget. The accounts contributing to this shortfall include out of district tuition/settlements (special education), District legal fees, the cost to conduct the space utilization study, and staff turnover. Mr. Rudl added however that the estimated excess cost reimbursement of \$124,418 would help offset this deficit, but the actual amount won't be known until

February. Additionally, there are encumbrance holds of \$295,500 for potential special education unilateral placements. If these do not materialize, the projected deficit will be reduced.

- Regarding the Internal Services Fund, which now only includes dental and medical claim run-out, Mr. Rudl reported that the current fund balance is \$1,558,530.

The Committee discussed the following regarding the monthly financial update on PPS/SPED:

- Mr. Rudl reported that regarding special education out of district tuition and unilateral agreements for FY 2019, actual costs are \$894,053 but projected costs are \$1,829,462, with encumbrance holds totaling \$295,500 for a total projection of \$3,019,015. This is against a budget of \$2,721,808 resulting in a negative variance of (\$297,207).

The Committee discussed the following regarding Medicaid billing:

- Mr. Rudl reported that the State of Connecticut passed a law in which districts with over 1,000 students are mandated to pay for Medicaid. While this would generate approximately \$15,000 in revenue to the District, it entails approximately 15-20 hours per week of additional work, which requires the hiring of a part time employee, so will end up costing the District a few thousand dollars.

The Committee discussed the following regarding pre-k tuition for FY20:

- Mr. Rudl informed the Committee that the District currently charges \$6,000 per year for its Hand-in-Hank pre-k program, which is lower than several other DRG A districts. Mr. Rudl recommended increasing the rate for FY20 to the DRGA average of \$6,250. The Committee agreed, and this will now be brought to the full Board for approval.

The Committee discussed the following regarding approval of the October minutes:

- The Committee approved the October minutes with minor changes.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:38 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted:

Andrew Galli

Administrative Assistant to the Director of Finance and Operations