Coventry Board of Education

Coventry, Connecticut

Fiscal Committee Meeting

Approved Minutes of October 08, 2020 Remote/Electronic

Committee Present Members:

William Oros, Fiscal Chair Mary Kortmann Barbara Paré (arrived at 6:01 p.m.) Jennifer Beausoleil, Board Chair

Administrators Present:

Dr. David J. Petrone, Superintendent Robert Carroll, Director of Finance and Operations

I. Call to Order

W. Oros called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. VOTE: Approve Fiscal Minutes of September 10, 2020

MOTION: Approve Fiscal Minutes of September 10, 2020

By: M. Kortmann Seconded: J. Beausoleil

Result: Motion passes unanimously

III. Information: General Updates

A. Student Athletic Insurance

B. Paré arrived.

Mr. Carroll said there are athletic activities happening. He said at this point he believes we could sign off and have insurance for the full year.

Dr. Petrone asked for a further review.

Mr. Carroll noted that it is an \$11,000 policy. He said the claims have been declining significantly over the past few years. The Committee reviewed the claim history. Dr. Petrone said in light of everything, it might be worth considering reducing this cost.

W. Oros asked if we could go lower. Mr. Carroll said \$8,222 is the lower figure.

W. Oros said he would suggest going with the \$8,222. M. Kortmann said she is leaning that way.

B. Cafeteria Reconfiguration

Mr. Carroll reviewed the various equipment items proposed to be purchased as part of the project.

C. Minimum Budget Requirement

Dr. Petrone reviewed the MBR information received. He said the legislation states that COVID-19 related supplemental funds, could not be counted toward the MBR.

IV. Discussion: Capital Improvement Plan

- Dr. Petrone said this is the first review.
- M. Kortmann asked about the Fire Alarm status and if it should be "in progress." Dr. Petrone said it should be finalized to move forward by the next time we meet.
- M. Kortmann asked about the bathroom remodel. [inaudible comments] Dr. Petrone said this information has been adjusted and is up to date. Mr. Carroll said this will finish up the bathrooms.
- M. Kortmann noted the network refresh. Dr. Petrone said it takes into consideration what has been done.
- M. Kortmann asked if there are any rumors about another security grant round. Dr. Petrone said they are looking to see. Mr. Carroll said it has been two years. Dr. Petrone said we are in "wait and see" mode; if it becomes available, we will submit again.
- M. Kortmann suggested the gym floors be moved to another year as we consider when they are actually due. She suggested moving them to 2022-2023.
- The Committee discussed various priorities. M. Kortmann said as a subcommittee we should really be looking at these items. Dr. Petrone suggested pushing out 6, 7, 9, 10, 12 13, 15, and 20 to the next year.
- B. Paré said she is worried about delaying number 10 [security cameras]. Dr. Petrone provided other options where those funds may be found for security, such as the tuition account.
- B. Paré asked about the bathrooms and specifically the floors. Dr. Petrone said they are refinished not replaced.
- W. Oros said he would like to see the utility vehicle go forward this year.
- Dr. Petrone verified that we are moving items 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15, 20 and that 13 has already been moved to 2022-23.
- Dr. Petrone asked if the maintenance truck could also be moved out. The Committee agreed.
- Mr. Carroll said the new number would be \$1,040,000.
- Dr. Petrone asked about 15. Mr. Carroll said another \$5,000 will get us under \$1,000,000.
- Dr. Petrone said it could maybe come out of 8, but we will do some research and bring it back again.

W. Oros talked about the utility vehicle and could we get that now by accessing the 1% account. M. Kortmann agreed. The Committee said this could be brought forward to the full Board tonight.

V. Information: COVID-19 Planning and Financial Impact

A. Board of Education Meeting Costs

Dr. Petrone said he wanted the Fiscal Committee to be aware, because of the hybrid approach to the meetings, it is costing approximately \$400 per meeting. He said we are purchasing a different camera to see if that will help with the number of staff needed.

Mr. Carroll said overall COVID-19 costs this year are approaching \$300,000. Dr. Petrone discussed PPE and tracking supplies.

Mr. Carroll said there has been another allocation as part of the CARES funds. He said the district was allocated \$31,000 for just PPE. He said hopefully they will hear in a few days. Dr. Petrone said there are challenges for what qualifies as PPE.

Mr. Carroll said the expenditures through June 30, 2020 have been submitted to the Town for FEMA. He added that the Town is not optimistic that much will be reimbursed.

VI. Financial Reports for September 30, 2020

A. Management Report

W. Oros asked for any questions. He noted the COVID-19 information is provided.

Mr. Carroll noted under the salaries and custodial salaries, the number is overstated by about \$80,000, because there was a place holder last month that was not removed.

He said the bottom line is now: -\$250,000

He said he has ramped up formulas for the utilities lines based on prior years' usage. Mr. Carroll noted questions at the Council level, which he read in the minutes: how the balance reflects as zero. Mr. Carroll continued that, at this stage of the year, it is the assumption all funds will all be spent, by June 30, 2020, but if you look at the detailed report you will see what has not been spent.

B. Encumbrance Reports

Mr. Carroll noted that we have been awarded Title I and II grants. M. Kortmann said the ESSER grant is included here and not all has been spent. Mr. Carroll said contracted services has an amount for consulting that is scheduled.

C. Special Education Tuition/Excess Cost

Mr. Carroll said two students left and four total were gained. He said we saved a lot in transportation due to ESY when transportation was not used.

D. Food Service

M. Kortmann said the summer looks better. Mr. Carroll said she was serving and received full reimbursement.

E. Capital and Special Funds

Mr. Carroll said not much has changed.

F. Preschool Fund

Mr. Carroll said we are down about 20 students. Dr. Petrone said some have returned since the beginning of the year. He said SmartStart numbers are down, but we are doing better than the rest of the state.

VII. Adjournment

MOTION: To Adjourn the Fiscal Meeting at 6:53 p.m.

By: M. Kortmann Seconded: W. Oros

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberlee Arey Delorme Board Clerk

Approved: November 12, 2020