

Tolland Board of Education
Finance and Facilities Committee Minutes
March 17, 2021

Members present via zoom: Dr. Walter Willett, Christine Griffin, Jacob Marie, Dana Philbin
Members absent: Renie Besaw

Meeting called to order at 5:32 pm

Review of FY21 budget to actual as of 2/28/21. Discussed accounts that had large unused balances at this time to see where we may have some leftover funds at 6/30/21. Dr. Willett explained that for salary accounts, we can expect that balance to decrease due to remote learning support staff and additional custodians being hired. Repairs and maintenance and equipment rental should also decrease as projects will be finalized by the end of the fiscal year. The school resource officer will most likely not be fully expensed as there is currently only one officer. Supply accounts (610-616) are currently showing positive balances due to the ERF money being incorrectly coded. This will be adjusted. Dr. Willett will review the large balances in postage, special education tuition accounts, textbooks, workbooks, graduation supplies and equipment and report back to the committee.

Discussions on the possibility of having leftover funds which may be used for curriculum writing to adjust for learning losses, food services which will not fully be able to self-fund this year and moving expenses if we can get into Birch Grove earlier than anticipated.

Reviewed the latest federal grant – American Rescue Plan. Tolland is expected to receive \$461,000. There will be restrictions on what these funds can be used for. Dr. Willett anticipates an increase in the Extended School Year program and these funds (and previous ESSER funds) could be used for that, not only the summer of 2021 but 2022 as well.

Discussion on possible budget reductions based on the Town Manager's proposed budget. Dr. Willett will be putting an end of year fund proposal together similar to last year. There are possibilities of pre-payments to invest in future expenditures, making a deposit into our insurance fund and review of the ERF to determine if we can use these funds for one-time expenses that are in the FY22 proposed budget. This document will evolve over the next few months as we see what the Town Council proposes and ultimately what is approved at referendum.

Dr. Willett would like to present to the Town Manager, Mr. Rosen, that paving projects be removed from the capital budget and combined with concrete work that will be expensed in FY21. This will ultimately save money on the overall cost of the project to have all work done at the same time. The committee agreed and instructed Dr. Willett to present this to Mr. Rosen.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Griffin