

**TOWN OF BERKLEY
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020**

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman, Joe Freitas. Members, Nancy Cajoli, Melinda Paine-Dupont.

The Finance Committee attended the Berkley School Committee Meeting. The School Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Mr Lynch presented and discussed the FY2021 School Budget.

Highlights:

- Legal up slightly as this will be a teacher contract year, in case needed.
- Instructional Materials up a bit for Math Program Update (old version no longer available 2012) will request the \$40,000 needed from Capital Improvement
- Collaborative Assessments cut in ½ - more out of district
- Maintenance of Buildings and Extraordinary Maintenance up due to serious issues with both buildings, i.e. Flooding in halls at Community School due to roof issues.
- Unemployment down
- Requesting new pick-up with dump capability for grounds maintenance & snow removal, existing truck is very old, will request from Capital Improvement Funds
- Overall increase is 3.71% from FY2020 budget
- School Committee approved this preliminary budget

Additional Discussion on budget:

- Status of the lights project need to consider hiring a different engineer as we are still waiting on specs for bid process, so this project has not gone to bid.
- New Chapter 70 money for Berkley only the minimum \$30. Per student.
- Mental Health needs of the students is still a major concern and needs to be addressed with more resources. Adjustment Counselors/Behavior Specialist, part time now at C.S., they would like to make full time. Adequate support could prevent security issues.
- School Psychologist at the C.S. does IEP and other educational Testing
- Would like to hire 2 Spanish Teachers
- Would like to replace classroom furniture at BCS – 30/40 years old
- MSBA appears to be an unlikely source of funds for critical infrastructure needs; C.S concrete and siding. Both schools' gym floors and the well. (Last year they received 61 applications from 51 districts and 11 were accepted)
- Reduced and Free Lunch increased by 26%
- eRates – Internet Expenses down 60%
- On-track to return \$20,000 unused monies from homeless transportation (last year \$12,200 returned)
- Discussed whether it would be more cost effective to hire another computer tech rather than outsourcing services currently beyond our capabilities.

School Committee Minutes attached here. Meeting adjourned at 7:58PM

No discussion took place between the Finance Committee members, no votes taken.

Information to be brought back to next Finance Committee meeting.

Handwritten notes:
JN 7/15 - 2.24.2020 - (10)
Melinda Paine-Dupont
2-24-20