

GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

70 Waterford Street
Gardner, MA 01440

Finance Sub-Committee Meeting
Monday, February 3rd, 2020
Superintendent's Office
Minutes

Members Present: Mr. LaFreniere (Chair), Ms. Pelavin (joined by phone call), Mr. Swartz

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Ms. Yu (Business Administrator), Mark J. Pellegrino (Superintendent),

The meeting was called to order at 12:35PM by Mr. LaFreniere, the Chair.

Approval of the meeting minutes for January 13th, 2020

Mr. Swartz motioned and Ms. Pelavin seconded, and the minutes was approved unanimously.

The Committee went over the Finance packet for the month of January. Mr. Swartz raised a question on legal fee deficit. Mr. Pellegrino explained that due to a couple of legal cases, the expenses are over the budget by over \$8K. Mr. Swartz also had a question regarding the water expenses. Ms. Yu will run an analysis of water cost by school locations. Ms. Yu also answered the question that was raised by Mr. Swartz during the previous meeting regarding waste management bill. Due to the different # of pickups per week, the prices vary from school to school. Ms. Yu will work with Mr. Anderson to give the Committee an update on whether to keep the same number of pickup times in the future. The committee also discussed about the Prospect St. building. Ms. Pelavin will contact the City building department to find the most recent updates.

There were two gifts/donations during the month of January, 2020. Once gift of \$340 is from Mrs. Susan Dunbar for "student lunch donation" to help financial challenged family with lunch bills. The other one is from North Central Middle School Alliance for \$865. This pertains to the reimbursement of dues to the Alliance previously paid, and the district can use the monies for professional development. Ms. Pelavin motioned and Mr. Swartz seconded to bring these gifts to School Committee meeting next Monday, February 10th for vote.

Ms. Yu and Mr. Pellegrino gave the Committee a quick analysis on snow removal. The contractor is responsible for plowing three fourth of the schools' parking lots, and the Facilities staff are responsible for the rest one fourth. This year the quality of services has improved evidently, and there were NO cases of staff or students falls. There is a good amount of savings in salt. More analysis will be done in the future months when the snow/ice season is over to see if the hybrid way is the right move.

Mr. Pellegrino and Ms. Yu gave the Sub-Committee an update on FY21 budget. The Governor's budget is posted on January 22nd. The increase is not what we are hoping for. The Student Opportunity Act increase was not reflected. Hopefully the budget will increase more during the following months when the State budget goes through its approval process.

The next meeting is scheduled to be on Monday 03/02/20 at 12:30pm at the Central Office Conference room.

Adjournment

Ms. Pelavin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Swartz to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:22pm.