

GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
70 Waterford Street
Gardner, MA 01440

Finance Sub-Committee Meeting
Monday, April 6th, 2020
Zoom meeting at 12:30pm

Minutes

Members Present: Mr. LaFreniere (Chair), Ms. Pelavin, Mr. Swartz

Members Absent:

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

The meeting was called to order at 12:50pm by Mr. LaFreniere, the Chair.

Approval of the meeting minutes for March 5th, 2020

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

The Committee went over the Finance packet for the month of March. Ms. Pelavin and Mr. Swartz raised a few of questions regarding the encumbered total amounts. Since Schools are closed now, some encumbrances will be adjusted accordingly. Ms. Yu will research and get back to the Committee.

Due to the pandemic of COVID-19, all schools have been closed since Monday, March 16th with uncertainty of re-opening of schools. The district leadership team immediately responded to the emergency and lined up food services for kids under 18 on Monday the 16th. The 1st approved site was the High School, and then we expended to Waterford Street School 2 weeks later to meet the needs of families who are farther away from the High School. Starting today, April 6, we just started bus delivery of shelf stable meals to nine bus stops. We served 8,346 meals from March 16th to March 31st. DESE has been very supportive of our effort in servicing the children in Gardner and neighboring towns. This program will continue as long as schools are closed.

Ms. Yu has been working with DESE and other business managers at MASBO on the issue of paying the Transportation company when the schools are closed. She will keep the School Committee updated with progress.

Mr. Pellegrino updated the Committee about purchasing the online Kindergarten registration packet which is an add-on to the current student database provider, Rediker. The prorated cost of the licence for FY20 is \$500, and the one-time initial installation and training cost is \$2,400. The future 3 years, it will cost \$3,000 each year. The district also purchased zoom accounts so that

teachers can offer online teaching to the students. Mr. Pellegrino called these opportunities, not challenges.

Mr. Pellegrino gave the Sub-Committee an update on FY21 level services budget. Due to the pandemic, the economic impact is uncertain. The concern from the Finance Sub Committee is whether the State can keep the Student Opportunity Act for the next 7 years.

Adjournment

Ms. Pelavin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Swartz to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:39pm.