

# GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

70 Waterford Street, Gardner, MA 01440  
Finance Sub-Committee Meeting  
Thursday, April 7, 2022  
In-Person meeting at 3:00pm

## Minutes

Members Present: Mr. LaFreniere, Mrs. Pelavin, Mr. Swartz

Members Absent:

Others Present: Dr. Pellegrino, Superintendent; Mr. Mark Hawke, Director of Finance & Operations, Ms. Joyce West, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Mr. LaFreniere called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Pelavin and second by Mr. LaFreniere to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2022 Finance Subcommittee meeting. So voted.

### **Expense Report Review:**

The Committee reviewed the Expense Report. Mr. Hawke noted the following:

- The process of moving funds to cover negative accounts has begun.
- The usual suspects are still in the negative but funds are available to cover the deficits.
- The ESS Teachers line dropped another \$29k due to the District taking advantage of the Covid Reimbursement from the state.
- Gas and Electric accounts are being reviewed to offset the negative balances.

Mrs. Pelavin questioned the negative balance in the GHS Coaches account. Mr. Hawke noted that this was the salary for the Athletic Trainer. Funds will be transferred to cover it.

### **Projects Update:**

Mr. Hawke gave an update:

- The GHS Landry Auditorium project is still underway. Painting “may” occur during April vacation. Work on all the Athletic Fields is underway, beginning with Stedman Field. The Athletic Director is pleased so far. GMS Lockers contract is finally signed, it looks like work will be over the summer to install. Watkins Field bathrooms and concessions plans are being updated. We hope to bid the project and have work begin during the summer. Completion is hopeful by year end and we hope to have something useable by Thanksgiving.

### **New Business:**

#### **Pre-K tuition review:**

A discussion with Joyce West occurred around Pre-K operations and pricing. Virtually every district runs Pre-K a little different and it looks like our model is the lowest priced model compared to nearby districts.

Next school year we will need to go to five (5) Pre-K classes. The District does have a wait list for peer-models.

A motion was made by Mrs. Pelavin and seconded by Mr. Swartz to recommend an increase in the price to the school committee to \$260/month for full-time and \$130 for part-time peer models.

### **Student-Staff Meal Pricing**

Discussion occurred regarding meal pricing, Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and Provision 2 and the Districts Identified Student Percentage (ISP) numbers as well as the multiple state and federal bills that have been filed to make all school meals free.

Mr. Hawke is working with Ms. Vickrey and Whitsons on all of the above and should have more information in the coming weeks.

The committee decided to wait until May or June to make a decision on pricing.

A motion was made by Mr. Swartz and seconded by Mrs. Pelavin to adjourn the meeting.

**So voted 3-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.