

GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

70 Waterford Street, Gardner, MA 01440

Finance Sub-Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 5, 2022

In-Person meeting at 3:30pm

Minutes

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

Members Absent:

Others Present: Eileen Bristol, Assistant Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. LaFreniere called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

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

Expense Report Review:

The Committee reviewed the Expense Report. It was noted that the lines that appear as negatives will have transfers made to cover them with existing funds.

- Gas and Electric accounts were noted as being higher than budgeted which has been followed all year but there are funds to cover. It was noted that the utilities have been hard to budget due to changes over the past few years with usage.
- The teacher salary lines are negative but there are funds to be transferred to cover that.

Projects Update:

Projects around the district were discussed.

- The GHS Landry Auditorium project is still underway. Painting occurring soon. Work on all the Athletic Fields is mostly complete. Watkins Field bathrooms and concessions plans are being updated with hope to bid soon with work being done during the summer. Completion is hopeful by year end and we hope to have something useable by Thanksgiving.

New Business:

Student-Staff Meal Pricing

- The committee reviewed the projections regarding school lunch and shortfalls that would exist at current pricing levels and current reimbursement rates. Discussion was had that there will need to be a price increase as we do not know if there will be state or federal funding for free lunch again. There is funding in the House Budget currently for it so the committee decided to wait and vote on a possible increase at the June meeting. There are also several proposed bills at the state level for it. Discussion was had that it is difficult

to figure out all of the variables due to the fact that lunch has been free for all for 2 years and it is unclear what the demand will be for school lunch if families would have to pay again. The committee decided to hold off until June to make a decision about any increase.

Adjournment:

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

So voted 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.