

Lebanon Board of Education
Finance Subcommittee Meeting
Lebanon Middle School (LMS) Library
March 7, 2023 – 5:45PM

Minutes

PRESENT: Brian Green, Nicole McGillicuddy, Dawn Whitcher, Sarah Haynes (BOE Chair), Alexis Margerelli-Hussey

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Andrew Gonzalez, Valerie Belles (Business Manager)

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Call to Order: Brian Green called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM.

I. 2023-2024 Operating Budget

1. The group briefly discussed the meeting held last week with the Board of Finance (BOF) our budget was presented for the next fiscal year.
 - a. It was felt that the discussion was well received and there were many great questions asked.
 - b. The BOF Chair noted how wonderful it is to see the additional students coming into District, and as such, the additional revenue.
 - c. There were several folks from Town that spoke in favor of the BOE budget. It was appreciated how respectful they all were toward the process.
2. Brian also spoke directly about the reason that he voted no for the operating budget at the full board meeting.
 - a. He is in favor of the 4.61% increase.
 - b. Further, he voted no due to the language in the descriptions within the operating budget. While this didn't change the "numbers", it would have presented dated and factually inaccurate information to the BOF. The Superintendent and the BOE has worked diligently to be transparent about the budget. He felt this would have set the whole process back by presenting incorrect information.
 - c. Lastly, he takes responsibility for not catching these mistakes before they went to the full board. He was focused on the three capital budgets, as there were so many things that needed updated on those lists. Going forward, the Finance Subcommittee will be reviewing pages of the budget packet at each subcommittee meeting in preparation for next year's budget.

II. Emergency Expenditures

- a. Water heater and water wheel: Approximately (4) weeks out until receipt.
- b. Cement block issue at Lyman: Will be addressed once the temperature becomes warmer so that the products will adhere properly.
- c. Camera Additions: As per the plan, several cameras were added throughout the District.

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- d. Information Technology:
 - i. Quotes for the two lab improvements are out.
 - ii. (35) new Chromebooks (half of need) were acquired. The purchase is being timed to allow the IT staff to integrate these new devices while still performing their other work.
 - iii. Wi-Fi at Sports Complex: Equipment will not be available until the summer.
 - e. The subcommittee will leave this as a standing item until all repairs/installations have taken place.
- III. 2022-2023 Budget**
- a. Valerie reported that our first payment for excess cost(s) came in from the State.
 - b. We are right on track for costs thus far through this year's budget cycle.
- IV. Operating Budget Narratives**
- a. Superintendent Gonzalez spoke that the focus was on the numbers, and that we lost sight of the narratives.
 - b. We will work on the subcommittee to better align the narratives with BOE goals, as well as a clearer description of what each line item entails.
- V. Audit**
- a. The budget process started late (January).
 - b. CLA is the firm performing this year's audit.
 - c. Valerie felt that there will be some management discussion items by the time the audit concludes.
 - d. No other real updates.
 - e. We will keep this on the agenda in order to stay on top of any findings/issues.
- VI.** Brian Green adjourned this meeting at 6:30pm. The next meeting will be held on 21 MAR 2023 at 5:45pm in the LMS Library, immediately following the BOE Facilities Subcommittee meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Brian Green, Finance Subcommittee Chair