



Haverhill School Committee
Finance Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday, January 31, 2019
City Hall, Suite 206
8:30 a.m.

Present: Ms. Gail Sullivan, Chairperson (8:57 a.m.), Attorney Paul Magliocchetti, Attorney Richard Rosa via phone, Ms. Margaret Marotta, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Brian O'Connell, School Business Manager, Mrs. Kathleen Smith, Accountant

The purpose of this subcommittee meeting was to review the state and federal grants.

Documents were distributed by the Business Office (see attached documents).

Superintendent Marotta gave a brief overview about the general nature of the grants. She indicated that a careful review had been conducted of all grants to ensure proper allocation of grant funds, correct title/job positions and efficiency. Ms. Marotta gave an example of switching transportation (including special education) costs into grants and personnel into LEA budget.

Action/Follow-up Items/Comments from School Committee.

London Livery are they an LLC/corporation/valid entity and do they have the proper certifications (Attorney Magliocchetti)

Mr. O'Connell to request insurance and validation from company.

Ms. Sullivan advocated for literacy being a focal point of both LEA and grant budgets.

In relation to indirect costs, Mrs. Smith noted DESE gives a certain percentage that is allowable to administer grant.

Attorney Rosa left meeting at 9:10 am

Attorney Magliocchetti left meeting at 9:15 am

Ms. Marotta noted that many staff members were committed to the Lesley Literacy Collaborative, but it was not meeting the needs of children in Haverhill.

Ms. Sullivan was appreciative of the individuals' commitment.

The subcommittee requested that the reasoning behind putting the Tilton Assistant Principal position in the Title I grant.

Mr. O'Connell noted that MTRS is not encumbered in the grant budgets, although they are aware that will need to be paid.

Ms. Sullivan recommended a better descriptor because Renaissance is not a textbook.

Ms. Marotta was exploring other options besides Merrimack College interns which cost \$18,500 per intern (total interns 16).

Other items discussed were the following:

- BARR application - Social Emotional Learning Grant which includes funding for staff coaching – \$2,500 this year and \$5,000 next year - Nettle and Consentino with HHS as the control group
- A suggestion from Superintendent to rethink transportation with the school district controlling the routes – could be accomplished by a bid process then the issuance of a purchase order
- Dr. Darshan Thakkar wrote Title I grant
- Ms. Marotta wrote Title IV to include a clinician (Dr. Georgniakis) for after-school work at Nettle along with Ms. Kat Everett to facilitate an Infinity Group at Nettle
- In reply to Ms. Sullivan, the Superintendent noted that Scott Gray was the Director of Safe and Supportive Schools
- Last year the Turnaround Grant (\$900,000+) supported many needs at Tilton School and some of the personnel needed to be absorbed
- Ms. Sullivan requested a draft Budget Calendar
- The budget should clearly outline the Salary – Benefits – Retirement for all current positions
- The guiding principles of the budget were to achieve smaller class sizes – equity – student achievement
- Ms. Marotta noted the inequity present at Bradford Elementary and that it would take between 3-5-year process to accomplish change
- Responding to Mr. Grannemann’s question regarding a Capital Budget, Ms. Sullivan noted that the school district did not own the buildings (tenant vs. landlord) – it was a contentious issue at present
- The Superintendent referred to the potential issue of whether it was cost effective for Consentino to be either replaced or renovated – community discussion
- Lastly, the subcommittee considered having a workshop format during budget review and discussion, Ms. Sullivan would reach out to Dorothy Presser from MASC, Haverhill’s new field representative to discuss workshop facilitation and best practices

Finance Subcommittee concluded at 10:26 a.m.