

Berlin Board of Education
Finance and Operations Committee Meeting
April 22, 2020
MINUTES

In Attendance: Matt Tencza, Chair
Adam Salina
Timothy Oakes

Also in attendance: Brian Benigni, Superintendent of Schools
Richard Aroian, BOE President
Jeffrey Cugno, Director of Business Operations
John Richards, BOF

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Tencza, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held via virtual media conferencing (Zoom).

II. Final Review of Budget

The Committee continued to discuss various budget category reductions related to the anticipated Town Board of Finance (BOF) reduction to the BOE Adopted Budget for FY2020-21. Following review of revised costs in the Employee Benefits Category pursuant to the Town's estimated cost for health insurance, the Committee approved allocation of final reductions to various categories in the FY 2020-21 Budget.

III. Revisions to Transportation Budget

The Committee discussed the status of negotiations with the New Britain Transportation Co. (NBT) regarding school closings and the related impact on the FY19-20 Budget. Mr. Cugno noted that an initial proposal had been discussed, but review of continuing negotiations and settlements with other Districts was advised before any proposed settlement with NBT was formally considered.

IV. Forecasted Surplus in Current Budget

The Committee reviewed preliminary information regarding the projections for surplus funds in various budget categories.

V. BHS Hockey Program

The Committee discussed the status of the hockey program at BHS and the general request for the BOE to consider future funding. There was a consensus that additional support should be recommended by the Committee and that pertinent information will be developed for the BOE review.

VI. Facilities Study

The Committee was briefed on the status of the RFP for the updated Facilities Study approved by the BOE.

VII. COVID Pandemic

The Committee was briefed on some of the unexpected expenses being incurred due to the school closings and the COVID pandemic regarding the establishment of a distance learning model for the District.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Cugno, Director of Business Operations