

# Seymour Board of Education

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 7, 2020  
7:00 pm

### BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Kristen Harmeling  
Beth Nesteriak  
Ed Strumello

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent  
Sherry Holmes, Business Manager  
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk

### I. CALL TO ORDER

#### A. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Harmeling called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:03 p.m.

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Please note: If you would like to have a public comment read into the minutes, please email your brief (300 words or less) comment along with your full name and address to [harmelingk@seymourschools.org](mailto:harmelingk@seymourschools.org) by no later than 6:30 pm on Monday, December 7, 2020.

None

### III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

#### A. Financial Management Summary

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Nesteriak) to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Financial Management Summary ending November 30, 2020

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

**MOTION PASSES:** 3-0

Ms. Holmes did an overview of the financial reports she shared with the committee. She reported the Coronavirus Relief Fund grant for \$1,399,784 has been approved by the State and she is beginning the process of drawing down the funds. To do this she must submit proof of what has been spent and the State will reimburse. This is the second grant we have received. Ms. Nesteriak asked how much the first grant was and Ms. Holmes reported it was in the amount of \$229,844. For grant #2, we will be sending our payroll registers for the Health Aides and Distance Learning Teachers. Custodial overtime will also be transferred to the Coronavirus Relief Grant. Ms. Harmeling questioned why the custodians have overtime for deep cleaning when the schools have had half the number of students and in the past weeks have been closed. Ms. Holmes explained most of the overtime being submitted was from the summer and September through November and possibly December. Ms. Harmeling wanted to know more of what the custodians are doing for the overtime. Ms. Holmes explained that she wasn't prepared to talk about this and suggested Mr. Connors would be a better person to ask. Ms. Harmeling asked if Health Aides are still working and if they are what are they doing. Ms. Holmes said she believed the Health Aides are helping the nurses with contact tracing and paperwork since we continue to see cases. Ms. Nesteriak asked why the Valley Health District could not do this at this point. She asked how we are paying our other staff such as custodians, nurses, and office staff. She reminded the committee that the health aides will be laid off on December 30. She also reported that they have found out that Grant #2 will expire at the end of December. She explained they did not know this and assumed it was for the full year. Ms. Harmeling asked if any lobbying is going on in order to extend the grant through the end of the year. Ms. Holmes said yes we are requesting an extension and the business managers group and the superintendents group are also lobbying for the grant to be extended through the end of June. At this point we do not know if they will be successful.

Ms. Harmeling found this upsetting and was concerned about the impact this would have on the operating budget especially for the distance learning teachers and the permanent building subs. She said the Board approved these positions with the understanding that they would be paid for from this grant. She asked if five months of distance learning teachers' salaries would now have to come from the operating budget. Ms. Holmes said the Permanent Building subs were not part of this grant. Ms. Holmes reiterated that she is very surprised that this grant will expire on 12/31 since they have not heard this previously. Ms. Nesteriak asked if an analysis can be done for the additional staff (health aides, distance learning teachers, bus monitors, etc.). She would like to have an idea of what the budget impact will be if we keep the same staff. Ms. Holmes reminded her that we do not have bus monitors because we were unable to find any to hire. Ms. Holmes said she has this information but would like some time to fine tune it. She said she will talk to the director of the grant and find out how the deadline works. She said she will apply for an extension. She will try very hard to get answers. Ms. Nesteriak asked how long before she can expect the analysis, possibly two weeks? Ms. Harmeling asked the Finance Committee members how they would like to handle the budget process. Ms. Nesteriak said she would like the upfront work be done in a workshop where Board members can ask questions and get answers before the budget is created. She would like a dialogue. Mr. Strumello said he would not mind if the process was done as it has been done in the past. Ms. Harmeling reminded him that for the last couple of years it was a presentation, basically here's the budget. It was done during a regular meeting. She said she agrees with Ms. Nesteriak that we need a separate meeting for a workshop. She would like everyone to propose some dates before the holidays. Ms. Nesteriak asked if we pay for bus fuel separately, Ms. Holmes confirmed that we do. Ms. Harmeling asked if custodians are in the buildings every day and asked how the appendix e positions are being paid. Ms. Holmes said they are being paid 1/3, 1/3 and balance to be determined. Ms. Harmeling was concerned about equity between sports and non-sports appendix e positions saying she has a real problem with some sports being singled out. Ms. Holmes said she would share the detail of payouts and this may help her to understand.

**IV. REPORTS**

- A. Chairman's Report  
None
- B. Superintendent's Report  
None

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Please note: If you would like to have a public comment read into the minutes, please email your brief (300 words or less) comment along with your full name and address to [harmelingk@seymourschools.org](mailto:harmelingk@seymourschools.org) by no later than 7:15 pm (or as determined by the Finance Committee Chair and announced during the meeting) on Monday, December 7, 2020.  
None

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to adjourn

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

**MOTION PASSES:** 3-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk

The Public is invited to participate in a listen only mode using the link below:

YouTube Link

<https://youtu.be/JYVsryjpamA>