

DRAFT

BOARD of FINANCE
Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2015

ATTENDANCE: The meeting was convened at 7:31 pm by Vice Chairman Sargent in the Town Hall meeting room with members Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Grauberd, and Mr. Finkel, and Mr. Bochinski present. Also present were Town Administrator Landry, Finance Director Darling, Superintendent Palmer, and BOE Finance Director Rich Rudl.

BOE UPDATE: Supt. Palmer introduced the new Finance Director, Rich Rudl to the Board. Mr. Rudl provided a year-end financial report, indicating that the BOE concluded its fiscal year with an overall surplus of \$3,003. This included accounting for a replenishment of the IDEA Grant account with \$176,000, and various encumbrances of \$205,000.

Dr. Palmer said the department utilized \$20,000 from the book replacement account to fix the gas leaks in the science wing, making them science labs fully functional as designed for the first time in many years.

Looking budget forward, she said that they will be reviewing the structure and leases for the centralized copy center, and the possibility of enrolling employees in the state employee health insurance plan. While there is the possibility of savings with the latter option, it comes at a loss of control and needs to be more fully explored.

She also told the Board that the vendor for the school cleaning contract is being unionized and may no longer be able to hold their pricing. She said that a supplemental appropriation may be necessary, depending upon how this situation resolves. Various Board members said that other options should be explored before the decision to seek a supplemental appropriation is made, including whether the contractor can be held liable for the differential costs for the remainder of the contract period for a new vendor. It was decided to have a future discussion, perhaps in executive session with Counsel, to fully understand the situation.

CAPITAL ACCOUNT-PROJECT LEAD the WAY: Superintendent Palmer said the BOE is asking the Board to repurpose the remaining balance (\$16,700) of a capital fund originally appropriated for design development for Project lead the Way at the Middle School and High School. The new purpose is to explore the architectural suitability of the Middle School for school offices. The first step of that study is \$4,200. Board members discussed at length the purpose of the fund, what had been spent to date, and the likelihood and time frame of continuing on that project. Ultimately, Board members took no vote to repurpose the use of the capital fund. Instead, it suggested that the Superintendent utilize the \$3,000 surplus noted above, and supplement the remainder with funds from the current year operating budget.

MINUTES: A motion (Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Bochinski second) to approve the meeting minutes of July 9 as presented passed by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Finkel said that a neighbor had suggested to him, that the Town offer a preschool program in its schools as a way to attract interest in living in Weston. He thought this could function as a loss leader, but would help build the “brand” of Weston. He wanted to know what people thought of it. Members thought it had merit but would need to be balanced against the potential additional costs of the program.

ADJOURN: At 8:40 pm, a motion (Mr. Bochinski, Mr. Grauberd second) to adjourn the meeting passed by unanimous vote.