



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION - BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE

Board of Education Special Finance Committee AT Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Virtual - Zoom Meeting

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order
L. Easmon
2. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approval of Minutes - Finance Committee Meeting - January 25, 2022 2
L. Easmon
3. New Business
 - A. Review and Recommend Approval of the Proposed DATTCO Bus Contract
W. Guzman and J. Titelbaum
 - B. Review and Recommend Approval of the 2022-2023 Healthy Food Certification Statement
W. Guzman
4. Adjournment
L. Easmon



BOARD OF EDUCATION – FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84529150550?pwd=eXk4YVJtOG9lMWtqTVgvQnFFRWNRQT09>

Meeting ID: 845 2915 0550

Passcode: v2uFpA

Dial-In Number (929) 205-6099

Meeting ID: 845 2915 0550

Passcode: 415552

ATTENDANCE: L. Easmon, Chair Present
J. Wilkerson Present
T. Moore Present

ALSO PRESENT: J. Thompson W. Guzman S. McCann
J. Titelbaum E. Pierce A.M. Cullinan
W. Shepard-Bannish D. Harris H. Frydman
R. Ike

1. CALL TO ORDER

L. Easmon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2. A. Approval of Minutes – Finance Committee – October 26, 2021

A motion was made by T. Moore and seconded by J. Wilkerson for the Finance Committee to approve the meeting minutes from October 26, 2021, as presented.

The motion was passed unanimously.

3. NEW BUSINESS

3. A. Status Report – Major Account 08 Tuition FY 21/22

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer gave a status report on major account 08 Tuition. This account has three subaccounts, two of which pay for tuition for outside placements.

It was reported that new students moving into the district, tuition costs for outplacement facilities and the pandemic have impacted subaccounts, 5600 Tuition Public and 5630 Tuition Private.

Wendy Shepard-Bannish, Director of Student Support Services, reported that an unprecedented number of new students, with existing special educational plans, have moved into the district during the 2021-2022 school year. Other factors that affect



Bloomfield's special education program is multi-generational homes, foster family households, and subsidized housing in Bloomfield, along with living instabilities due to the pandemic. These factors impact both the tuition and bus transportation accounts.

T. Moore asked if the new students are coming from state placed agencies. Ms. Shepard-Bannish clarified that it is only one feature of new students entering the district. She further noted that other factors are multigenerational homes and a number housing possibilities. This year there were 69 students with special education needs, which is significantly higher than a typical year.

T. Moore inquired if COVID-19 impacted these numbers. Mrs. Shepard-Bannish noted that COVID-19 did cause some housing instability.

J. Wilkerson inquired if the district is reviewing residency during enrollment and if this is the highest year in regards to the impact on our budget. Mrs. Shepard-Bannish noted that this is an unprecedented year relative to Special Education. It was further noted that residency is investigated by our Residency Officer. Additional information was provided regarding the placement of foster care children.

R. Ike stated he is sensitive to homelessness in Bloomfield. He also brought up an observation regarding residency.

D. Harris asked Mr. Guzman to speak to the volatility of the special education accounts and the lack of full funding from the state. Dr. Thompson noted a long history of the government not fully funding special education. Mr. Guzman shared information on the Excess Cost Grant.

L. Easmon inquired about the percentage of students in special education. The state is at 16% and the district is about 20%. Mrs. Shepard-Bannish noted on average there are about 30 new students in special education. She further stated the Birth to 3 student population has significantly increased. L. Easmon also asked about identification of special education. Mrs. Banish spoke about the referral and SRBI process in Bloomfield.

L. Easmon asked if the district anticipates being able to cover the deficits for the tuition account and Mr. Guzman believes at this point, those accounts should be covered at year-end.

4. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:31 p.m., a motion was made by J. Wilkerson and seconded by T. Moore to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously.

L. Easmon, Committee Chair