



MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Friday, April 16, 2021 in a virtual Zoom webinar, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Michael S. Mason called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

Board members in attendance:

Michael S. Mason, Chairman  
Karen Fassuliotis, Vice Chairman  
William Drake, Clerk  
Andreas Duus III  
Laura Erickson  
Debra Hess  
Miriam Kreuzer  
Elizabeth K. Krumeich  
Leslie Moriarty  
Jeffrey S. Ramer  
Leslie L. Tarkington  
David Weisbrod

Staff: Roland Gieger, Director, Budget & Systems Management, Finance Department;  
Peter Mynarski, Comptroller

BOE/GPS: Peter Bernstein, Chair, Board of Education (BOE); Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent,  
GPS: Sean O'Keefe, Chief Operating Officer, GPS

Other: Horst Tebbe, GCTV

### **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Mason asked for a report from the Budget Committee on its recommendation to the full BET taken at its April 7, 2021 meeting.

### **Request for Budget Adjustment**

### **NON-ROUTINE APPLICATIONS**

<b><u>Number</u></b>	<b><u>Department</u></b>	<b><u>Purpose</u></b>
ED-11	BOE	Interim Appropriation

\$2,055,000

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North Mianus School  
collapsed ceiling

Ms. Tarkington reported that the Budget Committee had received a request of \$8.1 million for repair of damage at the North Mianus School resulting from a ceiling collapse on February 13, 2021. The request was presented by Peter Bernstein, BOE Chairman, Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent of Schools, Sean O'Keefe, Chief Operating Officer and Dan Watson, Director of GPS Facilities. Ms. Zanesky, Director of Risk Management, reported on the status of the related pending insurance claim. Mr. Watson requested town input, including recommendations for contractors for emergency demolition, and engineering and architectural consultation. At the present, the cost to fully restore the school is unknown, pending ongoing engineering analysis. The initial request of \$8.1 million includes \$2,055,000 itemized for the Damaged Areas, Preventative Work, FF&E, Security camera replacements, Transportation for displaced students, and related staffing. The Committee discussed the scope of the project, the initial request and various alternatives to avoid delay and meet the RTM schedule. Ultimately an appropriation of \$2,055,000 was voted 3-0-1 for immediate needs and to request another interim appropriation when cost estimates by a qualified estimator are known.

Dr. Jones circulated a description of the steps planned by the BOE to have an RFP prepared by April 28, for posting after the RTM meeting of May 10, anticipating bidding to begin May 19 with a contract signing before June 15. It is hoped that the relocated students will be able to return to North Mianus sometime between Thanksgiving and the conclusion of Winter Break. Mr. Bernstein asked that the full amount be appropriated using the BET's practice of conditioning release of funds to ensure no delay in the bidding process.

Ms. Kreuzer made a motion to amend, seconded by Mr. Ramer, to appropriate \$8,109,027 of which \$2,055,000 is immediately available and condition the release of \$6,054,027 subject to BET acceptance and approval of the project bid from a qualified vendor(s).

In the discussion that followed, Ms. Kreuzer asked that the Board follow its typical process for emergency requests. The Board members expressed concerns about the timeline and delays; respecting the RTM's authority to approve or reduce the full \$8.1 million; the BET's fiduciary responsibility to taxpayers; and the special circumstances of student displacement with COVID disruptions.

Mr. Mason asked Mr. Drake for a Roll Call vote on the amended motion to approve \$8,109,027 appropriation with \$2,055,000 available immediately and \$6,054,027 conditioned on approval of the project bid. The Board voted 6-6-0. (Opposed: Drake, Duus, Fassuliotis, Hess, Mason, Tarkington) Motion failed.

Mr. Mynarski and Mr. Gieger were asked to clarify any restrictions imposed on sources of funds and the technicalities of bonding when insurance and state reimbursements are involved. Mr. Mason summarized the discussion and indicated that the repair to the North Mianus School had strong support on the Board, and expressed confidence the repair would be promptly appropriated and carried out. He thanked Dr. Jones for her leadership during the Covid-19 health emergency and expressed appreciation for Greenwich leading the State as the first town to bring students back to school.

Mr. Mason asked Mr. Drake for a Roll Call vote on the original Item ED-11 for an interim appropriation of \$2,055,000 for repair of ceiling damage at North Mianus School. The Board voted 9-0-3. (Abstain: Erickson, Kreuzer, Moriarty) Motion carried.

FI-6	Finance	Borrowing Resolution
\$2,055,000		North Mianus School Flood

Ms. Tarkington reported that a bonding resolution had been prepared by Robinson & Cole to accompany ED-11. The Budget Committee voted 3-0-1 for bonding of a \$2,055,000 appropriation to repair the North Mianus School ceiling damage.

The Board considered the funding sources for the total repairs of the school and received for guidance from the Finance Department on using the Capital Non-Recurring Fund, the Z Fund or bond anticipation note.

Mr. Mason asked Mr. Drake for a Roll Call vote on borrowing resolution FI-6 for \$2,055,000 for repair of ceiling damage at North Mianus School. The Board voted 10-1-1. (Opposed: Moriarty) Abstain: Kreuzer) Motion carried.

### **Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Kreuzer, the Board voted 12-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 A.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

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William Drake, Clerk of the Board

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Michael Mason, Chairman

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation is on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.