



**TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW FY2021-2022 - DAY #1 Minutes**

**Hybrid Virtual and Town Hall Meeting Room
Thursday, February 12, 2021**

(Originally scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2021; Town Hall closed due to snow emergency day)

Present:

Committee: Leslie L. Tarkington, Chair; Andy Duus, Leslie Moriarty, Jeffrey S. Ramer

Staff: Angela Gencarelli, Ass't Budget & Systems Manager, Finance Department (Dept); Roland Gieger, Budget & Systems Director; Craig Jones, IT Dept; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Barbara Ormerod-Glynn, Director, Greenwich Library

Board: Michael Mason, BET Chair; William Drake, Andy Duus, Laura Erickson, Karen Fassuliotis, Miriam Kreuzer, Elizabeth K. Krumeich, David Weisbrod

BOE/GPS: Peter Bernstein, Chairman, BOE; Dr. Ann Carabillo, Deputy Superintendent, GPS; Mary Forde, Chief Pupil Personnel Officer, GPS; Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent, GPS; Patricia Maranan, Accounting Supervisor, GPS; Sean O'Keefe, Chief Operations Officer; Kathleen Stowe, Vice Chair, BOE; Carol Sutton, GPS; Michael Ting, Director of Educational Technology, GPS; Dan Watson, Director of Facilities, GPS; Regina Williams, Asst Director of Human Resources, GPS

RTM Mike Basham (D-2), Chair, Finance, Bill Galvin (D-7), Budget Overview (BOC); Laura Kostin (D-8); Janet McGuigan (D-6) Education; Janet McMahan (D-8), Education; Roz Nicastro (D-3), BOC; Barbara O'Neill (D-6), Education; Mary Saleeby (D-8), BOC; Lucy von Brachel (D-4), BOC

Public: Ken Borsuk, Greenwich Time; Clare Kilgallen, New Lebanon PTA; Justin Papp, Greenwich Time; Brian Peldunas, President, PTAC; Horst Tebbe, GCTV; Nancy Weissler

Budget Committee Chair Tarkington called the Meeting to order at 9:07 A.M. and welcomed the audience to the BET Budget Committee annual Departmental Review Hearings dedicated to the Board of Education recommended FY2021-2022 Operations and Capital Budgets, which was rescheduled due to snow on February 2. Ms. Tarkington introduced members of the BET Budget Committee --- Andy Duus, Leslie Moriarty and Jeff Ramer and the Finance Department staff who

support the process --- Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget & Systems Director, Angela Gencarelli, Assistant Budget & Systems Manager and Shira Davis, Executive Assistant.

The BET Budget Committee Departmental Review Hearings are operating under the Governor's COVID-19 Executive Orders and will be conducted by hybrid Zoom. The meeting is being recorded by Zoom and the audio recording will be posted on the Town website. Meetings are being live broadcast by GCTV on channels 79 and 24 and YouTube. Technical expertise is being provided by Jenny Larkin, Craig Jones and Horst Tebbe. The schedule of the Budget Committee's Departmental Review Hearings is available on the Town website's calendar.

Budget Committee Chair Tarkington welcomed members of the Board of Education and GPS Administration and invited Superintendent Dr. Jones, Mr. Bernstein and Mr. O'Keefe to share how the upcoming year's budget was planned so that the Budget Committee could better understand its proposed operating and capital requests.

BOE Operations Plan FY2021-2022 Budget

Board of Education Chairman Bernstein recognized the Administration and faculty for extraordinary accomplishments achieved during the COVID-19 pandemic as all Schools have been kept open. The foresight of Greenwich's early digital learning implementation enabled access for both in-person and remote learners to instruction 5-days per week while GHS offered hybrid learning to a rotating student population. After a year of a flat increase to its operating budget for level services, the BOE planned FY2021-2022 Budget of \$169,846,597, an increase of \$6.5 million or 3.97% exceeding BET Budget guidelines of 3.38%. Increases in salaries (36%), Special Education (29%), and supplies, equipment and books added up to two-thirds of the \$6.5 million increase. Mr. Bernstein remarked that the external consulting review would be recommending an action plan for Special Education delivery and early identification of new students. He noted the number of cases pending settlement which could cause a budget shortfall and the unknown size of the coming year's special education population.

Dr. Jones commented on the population shift in enrollment trends which could reduce 12 sections of elementary classes but require additional pre-school sections; the staffing model and class size needed to respond to curriculum expansion; the need for Summer school to compensate for possible COVID-19 learning gaps to be discovered through mastery level testing; the loss of food service revenue; and consulting studies making future recommendations. Dr. Jones noted a staffing reduction of 2 full time equivalent (FTE) certified teachers and 9.5 non-certified part time equivalent (PTE) while foreseeing the increased need and cost of pre-k staffing for multiple small student classes.

Economies resulted from consolidating some school bus transportation routes; the expiration of software and equipment leases; and reduction of 2 full time certified teachers and 9 PTE non-certified teachers. A discussion of federal grants, State education cost sharing and excess cost grants took place, but the timing and potential amount of incoming funds is too premature to project. The Committee considered the operating expenses and economies presented and asked if more savings might be found from "lessons learned".

BOE Capital Plan FY2021-2022

Dr. Jones reported the completion of closing out of capital projects through 2017; open capital of \$34 million including \$8.1 million encumbered to complete 2018 and 2019 projects; and major projects (GHS Entry Renovation, Cardinal Field improvements, construction design of Julian Curtiss Elementary School renovation, soil remediation). The Superintendent remarked that the

FY2021-2022 capital budget was prioritized for safety, security, ADA accessibility and HVAC air quality.

Major Capital Projects – The FY2021-2022 Capital Budget of \$32,092,000 was requested for \$17,352,000 of major projects; \$14,740,000 of maintenance/infrastructure; \$2.3 million for technology and \$1.4 million for cybersecurity. All capital projects were individually discussed. The Committee sought additional project specific information and the timing of execution of the BOE CIP projects. Each of the capital projects cost estimates recommended in KG+D Architects 2017-2018 study were considered for finetuning or updating due to possible construction inflation. Concern was expressed that the capital plan might be overstated by listings under both capital projects and maintenance. A review for possible cost duplications and revisions was requested before the Budget Committee’s Consolidation Day meeting.

Upon a motion by Ms. Moriarty, seconded by Mr. Duus, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to adjourn the Zoom public session at 3:00 P.M.

Executive Session

Upon a motion by Ms Moriarty, seconded by Mr. Duus, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to go into Executive Session to discuss Schools legal claims at 3:12 P.M.

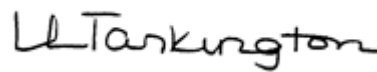
Upon a motion by Mr. Duus, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, the Committee voted to come out of Executive Session at 3:56 P.M.

Upon a motion by Mr. Duus, seconded by Ms. Moriarty, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to adjourn the Zoom Executive Session at 3:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary



Leslie L. Tarkington, Committee Chair