

Berlin Board of Education
Finance and Operations Committee Meeting
March 30, 2021
MINUTES

In Attendance: Timothy Oakes, Chair
Julia Dennis
Steven Jenkins
Mark Pruzin
Adam Salina

Also in attendance: Brian Benigni, Superintendent of Schools
Jeffrey Cugno, Director of Operations
Ashley Dorsey, Director of Finance

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Oakes at 7:30 a.m.

II. Request for Funding for Ice Hockey Team

The Committee discussed a request from the athletic director for funding from the BOE to supplement the operating budget for local Youth Hockey and the Berlin/Newington Club Team. The Committee agreed to recommend a \$10,000 commitment toward operating expenses, and noted its support for further development of the hockey program for Berlin.

III. ESSER Account

Ms. Dorsey provided the Committee with a preliminary list of eligible costs and programs that could be considered for funding under the ESSER Grant. The Committee discussed the goals and objectives of the grant program, and supported a number of possible activities to be funded. The application for funding will be due by late April, and the Committee asked to be further briefed on the completed application and its components at a subsequent meeting. Following a suggestion from Chairman Oakes, the Committee supported an allocation of 20% of the grant amount for improvement to air quality and ventilation in our school facilities.

IV. End-of-Year Funds

Following a discussion regarding various uses for the expected surplus in operating funds for FY 20-21, the Committee directed the Superintendent to develop a plan for funding and implementing various projects that were initially requested in the budget, but not approved due to necessary reductions in the overall proposed operating budget last spring. The Superintendent noted that it may be appropriate to request that the Town consider some projects for funding allocations within the Non-Lapsing Account that cannot be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey P. Cugno
Director of Operations