

***DRAFT – FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY
NOT REVIEWED OR APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE OR FULL BOARD***

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
RHINEBECK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
HELD ON FEBRUARY 21, 2020**

4.5.3

A meeting of the Finance Committee (the “Committee,” the members of which are referred to as “Committee Members”) of the Rhinebeck Central School District Board of Education (the “Board”) was held on February 21, 2020 (the “Meeting”) at the District Office.

Present at the Meeting were Tom Burnell, Mark Fleischauer, Steve Jenkins, Joe Phelan, and Matthew Van Wormer, constituting a majority of the Committee Members.

Mr. Jenkins, serving as Chairman of the Meeting, greeted all in attendance and called the Meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Mr. Burnell began by providing an update on the budget and reviewed the first draft of the budget with the Committee Members. He noted that there is likely to be an approximate 4% increase in health insurance premiums. In response to questions from the Committee Members, Mr. Burnell discussed certain new items in the draft budget and the reasons for the requests. In particular, Mr. Burnell noted that Principal King had requested an additional approximate \$20,000 for a Responsive Classroom Initiative at Chancellor Livingston. He noted that Principal King had also requested additional funds for flexible classroom seating, although this request requires additional discussion among the administrators and staff prior to moving forward. Mr. Burnell then discussed the role of grants from local organizations in connection with funding student programs.

Mr. Burnell then discussed the tax cap levy as well as the current fund balance. He noted that the administration is currently exploring different options for funding the District’s financial obligation to the BOCES project. He noted that the accounting treatment of the BOCES project requires additional analysis and noted that he would report back on this at a future meeting. Mr.

Burnell then provided an update on the capital project as the Governor's budget contains additional Building Aid for the District's current project and the need to meet deadlines for submittal of final reports.

Mr. Burnell then discussed the draft budget with the Committee Members in detail. He discussed various line items in the draft budget and responded to questions from the Committee Members about specific line items, as appropriate. Mr. Burnell noted that Mr. Kreps had requested an additional \$75,000 for curriculum. He also noted that insurance costs were likely to rise in connection with additional cyber security excess insurance coverage. Mr. Burnell noted that the BOCES Administrative charge will likely decrease, as BOCES enrollment for the District is decreasing more quickly than at other school districts. Mr. Burnell also noted Principal Davenport's request for a new copier in the High School main office, which would likely be leased.

Mr. Burnell then discussed the additional financial reporting that is required to be conducted pursuant to ESSA requirements. In particular, he noted that professional development costs need to be consolidated under Inservice and distinction made between professional development and other travel and conference costs.

Mr. Burnell noted the goal of arriving at a budget at the tax cap levy without a large fund balance.

Mr. Burnell then discussed the costs associated with mental health, which he noted has become a huge issue everywhere. He also noted the significant maintenance costs associated with programs for students with disabilities in a residential setting. He noted that the Governor's budget proposal would move approximately 20% of maintenance costs from NYS to school districts, up from the current approximately 40% share to an approximate 60% share of the costs.

Mr. Burnell concluded by emphasizing that the current draft budget is still a working document, and noted that he would provide a revised draft at an upcoming Board meeting, during which he would highlight any significant changes from the current draft.

There being no further business, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:15 p.m., Eastern Time.

Matthew J. Van Wormer
Acting Secretary

