

Business Coordinator Report

BOE Meeting October 28, 2020

As reflected in the financial reports we are currently on track with our budget for the 20/21 school year. COVID related expenses continue to grow and we have some unanticipated special education expenses. As always, we will keep a close watch on budgeted vs actual expenses and projections. You will notice that the Café fund has no year to date activity as no expenses were paid and no transfers-in were made from July-September. Our School Readiness Grant shows a deficit through September as funds were not drawn down while we worked with our EASTCONN liaison to determine our funding for the year. Due to COVID 19, Department of Early Childhood is calculating our 2020-2021 School Readiness grant based on the student population for which the grant was written, 16 students, rather than our current year PK-School Readiness population. The increase in School Readiness funding will allow us to free up funds to offset a portion of our full time SRBI/Distance Learning/Computer Education teacher.

COVID related expenses continue to rise and we have applied for all grant funding for which we are eligible. Our Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) grant has been approved and will cover \$13,195 of increased housekeeping costs for nightly sanitizing. We have been awarded \$34,547 in Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) to be used to safely open schools for in-person learning. Our grant award was split \$1902 for transportation personnel and \$32,645 for cleaning/ppe/health & safety non personnel. Our application has been submitted to cover \$1902 in bus monitors and \$32,645 for building modifications, nightly sanitizing (not overlapping with ESSER reimbursements), ppe, sanitizing supplies, and supplies to promote social distancing. Our school expenses do not qualify for funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Title I and Title II applications in the amounts of \$15,300 and \$2,423 have been submitted with funding to be used to support the cost of our full time SRBI/Distance Learning/Computer Education teacher as well as using the mandatory homeless set-aside for additional counselor time during the fall and winter holiday season.

I am actively working with our auditor to complete the 2019-2020 audit.

Legislation has passed allowing districts to exclude from their minimum budget requirement (MBR) calculation supplemental local appropriations to pay for expenditures related to COVID-19 and federal funds received under the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136)

Wellness Initiative: All HES Connecticare insured employees have received notification of the online WellSpark portal developed to provide education on modifying lifestyle risk factors and empowering employees to make lasting changes as well as information on earning a \$50 reward card by completing their online health assessment and routine visits. From November – June, webinars/blogs on a variety of health topics will be offered to all employees, not only insured employees. The November webinar will focus on Healthy eating for the holidays.