

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BUDGET & FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING  
APPROVED MINUTES: February 3, 2023  
Virtual Meeting**

**Present:** Susan Eckstrom (SE), Chair; Kathryn Martini (KM), Glenn Johnson-Mussad.

**Absent:** None

**Also present:** Christine DeBarge, Ed.D, Superintendent; Andy Paquette, President, The Management Solution (TMS); Karin Patendaude, Asst Superintendent, Diana Schindler, Finance Director City of Greenfield, John Bottomley, City Councilor

**I. Roll Call/Call to Order**

With a quorum present (SE, G J-M, KM), SE opened the meeting at 9:02 am

**II. Public Comment:** No members of the public present

**III. Review of the FY23 Budget**

Christine DeBarge reviewed a general overview of the FY24 Superintendent's Budget and anticipated additional staff requests.

Glenn Johnson-Mussad requested the Superintendent utilize the School Committee recording secretary to free up her time. The School Committee has a recording secretary so she can be invited to subcommittee meetings.

Kate Martini asked about the current situation with the music department. Christine DeBarge reviewed our current staffing in the music department and we agree we'd like to see the program increase.

**V. Medicaid Reimbursement**

Andy Paquette reviewed how Medicaid reimbursement occurs for services provided by school personnel. By law, the reimbursement is a general fund revenue source to the City, not the school department. Historically Greenfield has received approximately \$200,000 annually in reimbursement for Medicaid services. The school budget supports provision of the services.

Diana Schindler added that the funds are received by the City and once certified, goes into free cash for the City. Agreed with the stated trend of reimbursement. Stated that free cash has been used to fund City and school when needed. This year's Medicaid receipts have been identified for use by the schools for contract negotiations. There has been discussion about if or how reimbursement would be forwarded to the schools.

Susan Eckstrom raised the point that the district funds the services and state funding for special education is not fully funded and historically the budget is not fully funded. Shared that many other reasons may exist for the additional funding and this is restrictive.

Discussion regarding options for access to Medicaid reimbursement including special education reserve fund. Use of reserve fund would require vote of City Council and School Committee. Discussion regarding efficiency of this model for the school department given requirement for two votes for access. Supplemental appropriation would be more efficient according to Andy Paquette to allow School department access.

Diana shared ultimately, it's the Mayor's decision on what mechanism is used.

Andy did share that other cities/towns do added appropriations from free cash once Medicaid funds are certified. The district could reallocate local budget funds for unanticipated expenses and then request access to reserve funds to pay for special education.

## **VI. Adjournment**

**KM moved to adjourn. G. J-M 2<sup>nd</sup>. Yes – SE, KM, G J-M. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:13 pm**