

Holyoke School Committee  
Finance & Operations Subcommittee  
January 23, 2025  
Central Office/57 Suffolk Street

5:32 p.m.: Meeting came to order with John Whelihan, Chair; William Collamore, committee member; Sean Mangano, Finance Director; and Sean Sheedy, Facility Manager in attendance. Committee member Gladys Lebron-Martinez was absent by notification.

Mr. Whelihan announced that the meeting was recorded and held according to the provisions of MGL 30A, Section 22. The meeting notice contained a public access link.

Documents Presented:

- November/December Budget Report
- List of contracts
- List of grant/gifts received

New Business:

Mr. Mangano and the committee reviewed the district's FY25 district budget.

- The district continues to see increases in transportation costs. The district cannot transfer funds into this line item because it is a non-net school spending category.
- The District is hiring a firm to review its transportation costs to make recommendations for efficiencies. Mr. Mangano recommended doing this every five to ten years.
- The district continues to rely on contract services to fill teaching and special education vacancies.
- The Governor's budget is forthcoming.
- The school's Capital Plan is forthcoming.

The school committee's operating expenses are over budget:

- Increase in legal fees due to Title IX and discipline/suspension review related to new regulations.
- Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) consulting cost for receivership transition.

The Committee reviewed a list of large contracts:

- Discussion involved the PVT school bus passes.
- There are out-of-district costs associated with students attending Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School and Westfield Technical High School.

The Committee reviewed a list of grants/gifts received:

- Dropout prevention/increase graduation rates (\$49,880)
- Newcomer/homeless students support (\$50,000)
- Credit Acceleration (\$128,000)
- Mr. Collamore commented that many grants are continual.

Budget Transfer Process:

- All budget transfers go to the Finance Committee for review/approval.
- Budget transfers > \$25,000 go to full committee for review/approval.
- Any transfer between cost centers go to the full committee for review/approval.

The Committee reviewed a list of proposed budget transfers:

- Discussion arose over the district's needs to upgrade its technology needs via contracted services.
- Discussion arose over the need to contract for registered behavior technicians to support Action Based Learning (ABL Program). Three schools have vacancies in this program.
- The committee reviewed a long list of proposed capital improvement/repairs. Mr. Collamore inquired about the high school pool repairs and cooling investment in the Dean Technical High School gymnasium.

Budget Transfers:

- Mr. Collamore made a motion to transfer \$109,000 from teacher salaries to contracted services for behavior technicians. Mr. Whelihan seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.
- Mr. Collamore made a motion to transfer \$85,000 from school contingency to Operations & Technology to update our student informational system. Mr. Whelihan seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.
- Mr. Collamore made the motion to transfer \$1,280,000 from teacher salaries to school equipment and operations & technology. Mr. Whelihan seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.
- The Budget transfers would be forwarded to the full school committee for their approval.

Mr. Whelihan thanked Mr. Mangano and Mr. Sheedy for their presentations.

6:55 p.m.: Motion to adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelihan  
Chair