

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MICHAEL J. TESTANI
Acting Superintendent of Schools

City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD cont.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

JOHN R. WELDON
Chairman

BOBBI BROWN
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"Changing Futures and Achieving Excellence Together"

SYBIL ALLEN

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JESSICA MARTINEZ

JOSEPH SOKOLOVIC

CHRIS TAYLOR

Bridgeport, Connecticut

February 2, 2021

Board Members:

A meeting of the Finance Committee of the Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, February 10, 2021, at 6:00 PM via a Microsoft Teams Live Broadcast event. Public viewing access to the meeting will be made available through <https://www.bridgeportedu.net/stream>.

Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes – January 13, 2021
2. 2020-21 Budget Update
3. 2021-22 Budget Request - Status
4. Overtime Report
5. ESSER II Funding
6. Legal Services - Expense Summary

Joseph J. Lombard
Secretary
Board of Education

BBOE Finance Committee Members:

Joseph Sokolovic (Chair)

Bobbi Brown

Sosimo J. Fabian

Marlene Siegel (Staff)

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held January 13, 2021, by video conference call, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. Present were Chair Joseph Sokolovic and members Sosimo Fabian and Bobbi Brown. Board members Joseph Lombard and Albert Benejan were present. Board member John Weldon joined the meeting subsequently as indicated.

Supt. Michael J. Testani was present.

Ms. Brown moved to approve the committee's minutes of November 18, 2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic. The motion was approved by a 2-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Sokolovic and Brown. Dr. Fabian abstained.

Marlene Siegel, chief financial officer, presented the 2020-21 budget update. The 2020-21 financial condition report for December 31st was posted on the district's website. She said she continues to project a balanced condition, but in order to balance the budget the \$1 million withdrawal from the Internal Service Fund (ISF) had to be restored to the credits. Additional savings should materialize and it is hoped to restore the \$1 million to the ISF.

Ms. Siegel said the projected deficit in the nutrition department is currently \$4 million due to reduced revenue.

Ms. Siegel said the loss in the state magnet grant due to enrollment was \$563,716, however, the actual shortfall was

about \$800,000. She said that shortfall is built into the operating budget forecast, but the expectation of magnet tuition from all districts will offset the shortfall. She said two districts have not finalized agreements yet. She noted the new formulate limits to tuition to a maximum of fifty students at \$3,000 per student.

Ms. Siegel said the retroactive payment from Stratford of \$1.3 million has been received and the funds are being allocated to the four magnet schools in separate grant accounts, with the district retaining 25 percent. She said the district account will to be used to support magnet operations in the event of further reduced state magnet grant revenue.

Ms. Siegel said the purpose of the plan is to establish a sustainable funding stream for these schools to enable program enhancements and technology renewal.

Ms. Siegel said the excess cost of pre-K grants is charged to Title I and the shortfall will be about \$1.3 million due to reduction in enrollment.

Ms. Siegel said lower revenue is expected from Medicaid, the juvenile detention center, and the excess cost cap for out-of-district tuition. She noted the number of out-of-district students are lower this year, but expenses continue to rise.

Ms. Siegel said positive factors include transportation savings and savings in areas such as substitute staffing, athletics, security, and hopefully legal services.

In response to a question, Ms. Siegel said magnet tuition lawsuits were handled by the city attorney and she did not believe the district incurred legal costs.

In response to a question, Ms. Seigel said most legal settlements are of moderate expense, but it is a variable that must be covered by a budget line designed to anticipate expenses.

Dr. Fabian said he would like to see savings in this area. Ms. Siegel said there have been savings on the legal line in the past two years.

In response to a question, Ms. Siegel said the federal government is aware that the loss of nutrition revenue is a nationwide issue. She said she was informed the state education commissioner is considering state revenue to help districts offset the loss.

Supt. Testani said a list of litigation matters is being compiled to respond to Dr. Fabian's request of last week. He said being a municipality the district is an open target for litigation. He said hiring an attorney in HR has really helped keep costs down.

Dr. Fabian said risk management might be used in this area. Mr. Sokolovic said he would put that issue on the next agenda.

Ms. Siegel spoke on the 2021-22 budget request. She said there are no substantive changes from the prior third version.

Ms. Siegel noted a displayed chart showed declining enrollment over the past several years. She said she was projecting greater enrollment next year.

Ms. Siegel said the special education population is 17.4 percent and the ELL population is 20.20 percent. She said

special education spending in 2019-20 was 29.34 of the total budget.

The NCEP, the net current expenditures per pupil, as of October 2020, was \$15,329 for Bridgeport, while peer districts all have a higher NCEP. Bridgeport is ranked at 155 in NCEP out of 166 districts. Ms. Siegel said the district is underfunded by \$20 million for every \$1,000 in NCEP we don't receive.

Ms. Siegel said the district has to pay 4.5 times the NCEP for every out-of-district placement, so any increase in NCEP would lead to higher payments for out-of-district costs.

Ms. Siegel said goals include a structurally balanced budget, a budget built on all fund sources, a school-based budgeting model built on empowerment and accountability at the school level, fiscal accountability through integrity and transparency, and comprehensive fiscal management. She said the current operating allocation was increased to \$25 per student with CARES Act funding. A teacher's choice allocation is \$50 per teacher in the current year.

Ms. Siegel said fiscal challenges continue in utilities, transportation, legal services, special education, absence coverage, and benefits.

Ms. Siegel displayed budgetary numbers including the operating budget at \$256 million. The grants displayed were the major grants that comprise the comprehensive fiscal plan.

Ms. Siegel said \$4 million additional revenue was received in the current year \$2.3 million from the state and \$2.25 million from the city to the MBR. She said the city would be making

a direct payment of \$500,000 to We Transport in the third quarter.

Ms. Siegel said the city share is about 27 percent of the operating budget and the state's share about 73 percent. The average percentage growth in total operating budget over six years is 1.14 percent; 1.82 percent in the current year. She said the increases are not sufficient to keep pace with escalating costs.

Ms. Siegel said highly favorable rates were negotiated in the transportation contract, with an increase of 1.5 percent this year. The copier contract was renegotiated in 2018. There were other savings in Kelly Services staffing.

Ms. Siegel said the growth in ELL and special education has not been matched by the growth in the associated grants.

Ms. Siegel presented the operating budget request. She said a \$17 million request was projected. \$3.5 million from the city, the expected \$2.3 million from the state, and \$11 million in the gap plan.

Ms. Siegel said the \$17 million consists of collective bargaining agreements(\$4.7 million), health insurance(\$3.5 million), MREF retirement (\$1 million), special education(\$1 million), transportation, ISF, and a reserve. She noted a \$3 million surplus from the prior year is being carried forward and the \$17 million is about 6.6 percent growth.

Ms. Siegel said the superintendent is requesting \$3.5 million from the city, consisting of \$500,000 in direct payment to We Transport and to compensate for the funds the city didn't allocate in 2020-21 to maintain the \$1.4 million credit the district had in 2019-20 of \$650,000, and \$2.35 million for

non-discretionary costs including collective bargaining increases, health insurance and MREF growth.

Ms. Siegel said this mean about a 5 percent increase in the city contribution.

Ms. Siegel said there is \$3.5 million in the ISF that was saved last year that would be available and there will likely be a surplus in the ISF for 2021. She described the savings that would result from deficit prevention mode.

Ms. Siegel displayed a slide showing the cost factors for curriculum renewal. She said districts need a continuous stream of funding to ensure that curriculum and technology stay up to date.

Ms. Siegel discussed the food and nutrition plan for 2021-22. She said the expenditures are monitored closely to make sure they do not exceed the revenue. She said 2021-22 is expected to be a post-pandemic year and we're asking the city to set up the nutrition budget at about \$20.43 million, with the anticipation that revenue will be about \$18.6 million.

Mr. Sokolovic noted the NCEP portion provided by the state is \$9,426 per pupil, while the local contribution is \$3,472, which is amongst the lowest of any local contribution in the state. He said he did not understand why we were requesting only \$3.5 million from the city, amounting to \$176 per student. He said the amount requested should be increased, particularly in light of City Council promises to redirect money from the police department.

Mr. Sokolovic noted the district's budget is always audited and reviewed by the city. He said there is a misconception that there's something wrong these numbers. He added that

administration costs are merely one percent of the budget and significantly lower than surrounding districts, so that any cuts that are made basically come out of the classroom. He said this results in a hiring freeze and departments without heads.

Dr. Fabian said he would like to see how the historic budget numbers compare to the inflation rate.

Dr. Fabian said Mr. Testani faced allegations of union-busting, but the city has continued to provide services without asking for any concessions from the unions on collective bargaining units. He said he agreed with Mr. Sokolovic that more from the city should be requested.

Ms. Brown said she agreed that the city needed to add more funds.

In response to a question, Ms. Siegel said the HR department's hiring includes diversity goals and there are funds in the Title II grant for recruitment.

In response to a question, Ms. Siegel described the district's pursuit of grants. She said numerous competitive grants have been received each year.

Grants director, Nadira Clarke, said she was in charge of looking for money through grants. She said the quarterly financial condition report lists all the current grants.

Dr. Fabian said he would like to hear a presentation on grants sometime in the future.

In response to a question, Ms. Siegel said savings in the operating budget, such as in athletics, are applied to lines that are negative and the shortfall in food and nutrition.

John Weldon joined the meeting.

Mr. Sokolovic asked committee members what amount should be requested from the city. He suggested it be a reasonable amount, not astronomical. He suggested \$6 million. He calculated the request would raise the per-student request to \$301.

Ms. Siegel said the \$3.5 million request was 5.07 percent of the city share and 1.36 percent of the total budget.

Regarding inflation rates, Mr. Sokolovic said he believed that even staff raises over time had not kept pace with inflation. Ms. Siegel said collective bargaining growth is about two percent.

Ms. Siegel said asking the city to pay for the collective bargaining growth was entire reasonable.

Mr. Sokolovic moved *“to increase the ask from the city side from \$3.5 million to \$6 million.”* The motion was seconded by Dr. Fabian and unanimously approved.

Ms. Brown moved *“to present the budget as amended previously to the full board for consideration.”* The motion was seconded by Dr. Fabian and unanimously approved.

Mr. Sokolovic moved *“to table the rest of the agenda items – the overtime budget report and the update on the new COVID funding – to the next meeting.”* The motion was seconded by Dr. Fabian and unanimously approved.

Dr. Fabian moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brown and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

DRAFT

**BRIDGEPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT
OVERTIME EXPENDITURE REPORT
July 1, 2020 to December 4, 2020**

SUMMARY DATA

Department	NON-COVID		COVID		GRAND TOTAL	
	Total Sum of Hours	Total Overtime Cost	Total Sum of Hours.	Total Overtime Cost.	Total Sum of Hours..	Total Overtime Cost..
BOE FACILITIES	7,852.75	\$289,487.84	2953.50	\$106,426.14	10,806.25	\$395,913.98
STOCK ROOM	456.50	\$17,939.96	91.00	\$4,419.15	547.50	\$22,359.11
TRADES	1,303.00	\$81,114.19	70.50	\$3,609.71	1,373.50	\$84,723.90
SCHOOL SECURITY	1,201.50	\$36,501.13	262.00	\$7,528.54	1,463.50	\$44,029.67
PAYROLL/BENEFITS	67.50	\$3,549.84	0	0	67.50	\$3,549.84
Total	10,881.25	\$428,592.96	3,377.00	\$121,983.54	14,258.25	\$550,576.50

REVISED 1/29/2021

Connecticut State Department of Education
Bureau of Fiscal Services
Elementary and Secondary Emergency School Relief Fund II (ESSER II)
Under the CARES Act

District Code	District Name	2020-2021 ESSER II Entitlements
1	ANDOVER	\$59,662
2	ANSONIA	\$3,513,052
3	ASHFORD	\$229,959
4	AVON	\$370,036
5	BARKHAMSTED	\$30,562
7	BERLIN	\$641,868
8	BETHANY	\$129,995
9	BETHEL	\$1,048,338
11	BLOOMFIELD	\$1,743,911
12	BOLTON	\$76,019
13	BOZRAH	\$100,652
14	BRANFORD	\$1,346,787
15	BRIDGEPORT	\$40,569,188
17	BRISTOL	\$8,074,237
18	BROOKFIELD	\$328,510
19	BROOKLYN	\$798,037
22	CANTERBURY	\$375,855
23	CANTON	\$172,953
24	CHAPLIN	\$100,612
25	CHESHIRE	\$439,559
26	CHESTER	\$103,776
27	CLINTON	\$738,712
28	COLCHESTER	\$937,826
29	COLEBROOK	\$31,094
30	COLUMBIA	\$101,932
31	CORNWALL	\$101,135
32	COVENTRY	\$521,667
33	CROMWELL	\$659,418
34	DANBURY	\$10,135,242
35	DARIEN	\$596,805
36	DEEP RIVER	\$123,644
37	DERBY	\$1,678,497
39	EASTFORD	\$39,670
40	EAST GRANBY	\$236,004
41	EAST HADDAM	\$136,979
42	EAST HAMPTON	\$190,379
43	EAST HARTFORD	\$9,410,202
44	EAST HAVEN	\$2,841,460
45	EAST LYME	\$761,066

REVISED 1/29/2021

Connecticut State Department of Education
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Elementary and Secondary Emergency School Relief Fund II (ESSER II)
Under the CARES Act

District Code	District Name	2020-2021 ESSER II Entitlements
46	EASTON	\$122,244
47	EAST WINDSOR	\$712,839
48	ELLINGTON	\$227,868
49	ENFIELD	\$3,233,748
50	ESSEX	\$62,139
51	FAIRFIELD	\$1,271,526
52	FARMINGTON	\$1,019,624
53	FRANKLIN	\$59,165
54	GLASTONBURY	\$675,293
56	GRANBY	\$209,360
57	GREENWICH	\$3,788,588
58	GRISWOLD	\$1,159,201
59	GROTON	\$3,045,329
60	GUILFORD	\$522,780
62	HAMDEN	\$4,376,981
63	HAMPTON	\$58,500
64	HARTFORD	\$45,730,706
65	HARTLAND	\$100,213
67	HEBRON	\$54,835
68	KENT	\$78,532
69	KILLINGLY	\$1,696,884
71	LEBANON	\$210,916
72	LEDYARD	\$920,023
73	LISBON	\$222,501
74	LITCHFIELD	\$336,594
76	MADISON	\$344,797
77	MANCHESTER	\$6,829,365
78	MANSFIELD	\$400,634
79	MARLBOROUGH	\$65,840
80	MERIDEN	\$10,576,294
83	MIDDLETOWN	\$3,204,786
84	MILFORD	\$2,347,456
85	MONROE	\$512,143
86	MONTVILLE	\$1,192,789
88	NAUGATUCK	\$3,722,562
89	NEW BRITAIN	\$22,902,450
90	NEW CANAAN	\$442,072
91	NEW FAIRFIELD	\$892,851
92	NEW HARTFORD	\$59,161

REVISED 1/29/2021

Connecticut State Department of Education
Bureau of Fiscal Services
Elementary and Secondary Emergency School Relief Fund II (ESSER II)
Under the CARES Act

District Code	District Name	2020-2021 ESSER II Entitlements
93	NEW HAVEN	\$37,716,245
94	NEWINGTON	\$1,396,747
95	NEW LONDON	\$8,440,551
96	NEW MILFORD	\$1,333,864
97	NEWTOWN	\$625,532
98	NORFOLK	\$11,191
99	NORTH BRANFORD	\$288,074
100	NORTH CANAAN	\$149,521
101	NORTH HAVEN	\$947,509
102	NORTH STONINGTON	\$166,136
103	NORWALK	\$9,241,216
104	NORWICH	\$8,513,437
106	OLD SAYBROOK	\$449,557
107	ORANGE	\$164,053
108	OXFORD	\$340,259
109	PLAINFIELD	\$1,542,860
110	PLAINVILLE	\$1,605,726
111	PLYMOUTH	\$703,568
112	POMFRET	\$87,595
113	PORTLAND	\$312,041
114	PRESTON	\$281,674
116	PUTNAM	\$1,134,763
117	REDDING	\$123,276
118	RIDGEFIELD	\$418,769
119	ROCKY HILL	\$862,635
121	SALEM	\$111,811
122	SALISBURY	\$16,455
123	SCOTLAND	\$58,319
124	SEYMOUR	\$1,019,026
125	SHARON	\$208,757
126	SHELTON	\$1,815,928
127	SHERMAN	\$74,690
128	SIMSBURY	\$430,318
129	SOMERS	\$172,372
131	SOUTHINGTON	\$1,857,579
132	SOUTH WINDSOR	\$541,540
133	SPRAGUE	\$331,475
134	STAFFORD	\$830,593
135	STAMFORD	\$12,145,816

Connecticut State Department of Education
 Bureau of Fiscal Services
 Elementary and Secondary Emergency School Relief Fund II (ESSER II)
 Under the CARES Act

District Code	District Name	2020-2021 ESSER II Entitlements
136	STERLING	\$258,952
137	STONINGTON	\$1,243,326
138	STRATFORD	\$4,390,188
139	SUFFIELD	\$1,198,945
140	THOMASTON	\$355,717
141	THOMPSON	\$589,475
142	TOLLAND	\$203,519
143	TORRINGTON	\$2,929,170
144	TRUMBULL	\$703,860
145	UNION	\$32,273
146	VERNON	\$2,030,411
147	VOLUNTOWN	\$144,864
148	WALLINGFORD	\$2,083,647
151	WATERBURY	\$41,651,124
152	WATERFORD	\$1,160,769
153	WATERTOWN	\$874,406
154	WESTBROOK	\$285,978
155	WEST HARTFORD	\$3,999,415
156	WEST HAVEN	\$9,019,305
157	WESTON	\$228,541
158	WESTPORT	\$625,705
159	WETHERSFIELD	\$1,214,993
160	WILLINGTON	\$268,525
161	WILTON	\$345,794
162	WINCHESTER	\$850,160
163	WINDHAM	\$6,648,861
164	WINDSOR	\$2,113,925
165	WINDSOR LOCKS	\$1,012,436
166	WOLCOTT	\$880,939
167	WOODBIDGE	\$202,141
169	WOODSTOCK	\$593,131
201	DISTRICT NO. 1	\$174,712
204	DISTRICT NO. 4	\$108,917
205	DISTRICT NO. 5	\$244,022
206	DISTRICT NO. 6	\$124,344
207	DISTRICT NO. 7	\$106,949
208	DISTRICT NO. 8	\$126,981
209	DISTRICT NO. 9	\$84,905
210	DISTRICT NO. 10	\$330,456

Connecticut State Department of Education
 Bureau of Fiscal Services
 Elementary and Secondary Emergency School Relief Fund II (ESSER II)
 Under the CARES Act

District Code	District Name	2020-2021 ESSER II Entitlements
211	DISTRICT NO. 11	\$154,055
212	DISTRICT NO. 12	\$106,462
213	DISTRICT NO. 13	\$194,700
214	DISTRICT NO. 14	\$245,294
215	DISTRICT NO. 15	\$525,776
216	DISTRICT NO. 16	\$332,654
217	DISTRICT NO. 17	\$201,928
218	DISTRICT NO. 18	\$182,649
219	DISTRICT NO. 19	\$393,587
241	CREC	\$9,929,950
243	CES	\$279,778
244	ACES	\$1,466,606
245	LEARN	\$1,407,056
253	EASTCONN	\$320,351
261	JUMOKE	\$1,194,022
263	ODYSSEY	\$188,500
264	INTEGRATED DAY	\$255,243
265	ISAAC	\$578,608
268	COMMON GROUND	\$308,766
269	BRIDGE	\$454,605
270	SIDE BY SIDE	\$202,615
272	EXPLORATIONS	\$46,995
279	AMISTAD	\$1,987,086
280	NEW BEGINNINGS	\$829,343
283	PARK CITY PREP	\$669,496
285	AF BRIDGEPORT	\$1,974,756
286	HIGHVILLE CHART	\$528,958
288	AF HARTFORD	\$2,985,464
289	ELM CITY COLLEGE PRP	\$1,401,618
290	BRASS CITY CHARTER	\$345,874
291	ELM CITY MONTESSORI	\$149,074
294	GREAT OAKS CHARTER	\$875,341
295	BOOKER T. WASHINGTON	\$571,517
296	STAMFORD CHARTER SCH	\$206,515
297	CAPITOL PREP HARBOR	\$889,749
301	CTECS	\$12,000,673
	TOTAL	\$443,183,812



Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, 2021 **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II)**

January 28, 2021

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is proud of how our Connecticut school communities continue to navigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and how students, families, and staff, have adapted to the changing and evolving approach to education during this time. In recognition of the ongoing need to support these efforts, the United States Department of Education (USED) has notified CSDE that pursuant to section 313 of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260), Connecticut will be receiving an additional \$492,426,458 in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER II). This brings Connecticut's total ESSER funding to \$603,494,517.

Similar to the original ESSER appropriation the funds will be distributed as follows:

- CSDE may reserve up to 10% of the funds for state level activities, including up to 0.5% for state level administration costs.
- Not less than 90% of the funds must be allocated to Local Education Agencies (LEAs).
- The CSDE will allocate these funds to LEAs on the basis of their respective shares of funds received under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in fiscal year 2020.

During April of 2020, CSDE first highlighted the [Connecticut state-level priorities for education](#) that were deemed critical to meeting student need. This document updates and supplements those priorities given the new funding available and the evolving educational needs at the district and school level. It continues our commitment to provide equitable access to education for all students and focuses the use of resources on supporting our school communities.

To accomplish our common goals of educational recovery and learning acceleration for every student, we urge LEAs to take a comprehensive look at the federal, state, and local resources available to them in meeting the priorities outlined below. To assist in this process and in accessing the ESSER II funding, the CSDE is developing a new application which will be available in eGMS. The application will be designed to serve as a planning tool and will require: a needs assessment (how the LEA has identified the educational gaps created by the pandemic); an articulation of the steps that will be taken to mitigate the gaps; and a description of the intended alignment of the resources available under ESSER I and II to implement the plan over the summer and the 2021-22 school year. The CSDE's review of the applications will focus on how the plans and resource allocations align. The CSDE anticipates updates from LEAs that will be used to assess effective plan implementation.

The CSDE recognizes that the pandemic has exacerbated disparities that already existed and as we have previously communicated, it is our collective responsibility to address our challenges through an equity focused lens. The best results will be achieved as we leverage existing and/or advance new school-family-community partnership structures. The priorities outlined contemplate robust partnerships, which include the CSDE. We will be positioned to provide technical assistance and support.

State-Level Priorities:

- **Academic Supports, Learning Loss, Learning Acceleration and Recovery:** Equity and access in education for students in Connecticut remains a top priority. As we have worked to help close the digital divide through technology and connectivity, we must measure and plan to address learning loss. Our academic supports must be positioned to accelerate learning and facilitate recovery. It is particularly important that we measure learning loss and target resources for our students disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Access must be focused on our most vulnerable students, including students whose progress decreased, students with disabilities, English learners, students experiencing homelessness, disengaged youth, or those with barriers to remote learning. Targeted supports that should be implemented include but are not limited to additional classroom supports, high dosage small group tutoring programs including in school and after school, extended day programs and expanded access to summer school.
- **Family and Community Connections:** Direct engagement with families and the community, such as faith-based organizations, businesses, and social service providers, will provide added supports for our students while we continue this school year and adapt to the changing dynamics of this pandemic. Among other opportunities to increase initiatives that engage school, family and community connections, schools should engage “Family Academy” programs aimed at providing parents and guardians with the skills to support their children’s academic endeavors, including those skills necessary to support technology use in the home.
- **School Safety and Social-Emotional Well-being of the “Whole Student” and of our School Staff:** There is an unprecedented level of stress on both students and staff members which must be addressed, both through social and emotional support and also through continued emphasis on public health safety measures. One focus area should be on additional behavioral and mental health services delivered in-person or via remote/ telehealth access and social and emotional support mechanisms, so that these supports are available even for individuals who may have limited in-person access. Resources should also continue to be allocated to support the physical health and safety of our students and staff, (e.g., to ensure adequate personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning supplies, etc.).
- **Remote Learning, Staff Development, and the Digital Divide:** We have successfully worked to close the digital divide in Connecticut. Resources should be allocated to (1) maintain or upgrade access to technology and connectivity for the long term; (2) increase robust professional development for staff to hone their skills in providing remote learning; and (3) provide technical assistance and/or training for families, so that students, school staff, and families are all prepared to use remote platforms to effectively maximize student learning.

Authorized Uses of ESSER II Funds

(Newly eligible activities are outlined in green)

LEAs may use funds for any activity authorized under the major federal grant categories including the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins), or the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act. The following more specifically describe the types of eligible activities under ESSERF:

- Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies with State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to improve coordinated responses among such entities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.
- Addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care, of the local educational agency, including by: (A) Administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable, to accurately assess students' academic progress and assist educators in meeting students' academic needs, including through differentiating instruction; (B) Implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students; (C) Providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment; (D) Tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance education; (E) Tracking student academic progress with evaluating and comparing to pre-pandemic grades and progress to identify students that experienced learning loss.
- Providing principals and others school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools.
- Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population.
- Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies.
- Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.
- Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a local educational agency, including buildings operated by such agency.
- Planning for, coordinating, and implementing activities during long-term closures, including providing meals to eligible students, providing technology for online learning to all students, providing guidance for carrying out requirements under the IDEA and ensuring other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all Federal, State, and local requirements.
- Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the local educational agency that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and children with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.

- Providing mental health services and supports.
 - Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care.
- School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs.
 - Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems; filtering, purification and other air cleaning; fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement.
- Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local educational agencies and continuing to employ existing staff of the local educational agency.

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS			
			As of
LEGAL EXPENDITURES	2020-21		1/28/2021
Purchase Order	Amount	Vendor	Comments
Total	\$ 162,283.84		14
	AMOUNT	Column1	DESCRIPTION
	\$ -		DURANT: Pending Legal Cases
\$161,889	\$ -		PULLMAN & COMLEY: Pending Legal Cases (from DURANT)
	\$ -		Shipman & Goodman: Legal Representation
	\$ 161,889.33		Berchem Moses PC
	\$ -		Ford & Harrison
			Kainen, Escalera and McHale (investigation)
	\$ -		Milano & Wanat
	\$ -		Settlements
			Termination Hearings
	\$ 394.51		Arbitration/Mediation
			Expulsion Hearings
			Medical Reviews
	\$ 162,283.84		