

**Finance Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 14, 2025, at 5:00 pm
Bellingham Municipal Center
Arcand Meeting Room**

Finance Committee Members Present: J. Allam (Chairman), J. Collamati (Vice-Chairman), K. Keppler, B. Boyd, J. Kuzmeskas

Finance Committee Members Absent: All members present

Meeting Commenced: J. Allam called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

J. Collamati made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2025, Finance Committee Meeting, as submitted. K. Keppler seconded. Approved 4/0.

Public Hearing: BVT Superintendent, Dr. Fitzpatrick, was present to discuss the Department's FY26 Budget, and Capital Request, as presented:

There are currently 76 Bellingham students that attend the BVT School System. Fiscal Year funding requests for the BVT Budget are a requirement that is set by the State and is based on the number of students from Bellingham, that are in attendance.

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$1,331,542 from Taxation for the Regional School assessment number of Bellingham students that attend BVT School. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

ARTICLE 18 – Establish Stabilization Account – Blackstone Valley

To see if the Town will vote to approve the creation of a stabilization account for Blackstone Valley Regional School District as previously voted by the member community of Hopedale on May 21, 2024, and as encouraged by the former Milford Finance Committee Chair. This action is supported by the Regional District's Treasurer and its independent auditing form, and favorable action will enable the Regional District additional flexibility in addressing future capital improvements.

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend Article 18 of the Town Warrant. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Public Hearing: Bellingham School Superintendent, Dr. Marano and School Committee Members were present to discuss the Department's FY26 Budget, and Capital Requests, as follows:

A Financial Overview of all funds was presented to members for review. The FY26 Budget Proposal included summaries and detailed information about all funding types. The General Fund is the main contributor of funds to operate the schools. Local property taxes and other Town Revenue, along with State Education Aid (Chapter 70) are the primary Revenue sources for the General Fund. The FY26 Proposed Budget has an increase of 4.58%, inclusive of transportation costs.

B. Boyd made a motion to recommend \$36,576,804 from Taxation for Article 1 of the Town Warrant, for the School Department Budget. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 4/0.

Math Textbooks – Grades 6 – 8:

A request for the purchase of Math Textbooks, for Grades 6 – 8 was presented to Committee Members. This will include textbooks and digital licenses for the Middle School / High School textbooks request. Purchase Total: \$25,656.

Math Textbooks – Algebra I, II, and Geometry:

This request is for the purchase of Math Textbooks, for Algebra I, II, and Geometry. These would be student and teacher editions and include digital subscriptions for 3 years. This curriculum request includes a bundled discount for 450 students, and 12 teacher bundles.

Purchase Total: \$55,602.

High School Textbooks:

Information was provided for the World Language curriculum. This request is for a 6-Year subscription and includes textbooks and digital licenses. The curriculum request includes a bundled discount for 655 students for Spanish I – IV, and 16 teacher bundles.

Purchase Total: \$91,535.

BMS Gym Upgrades:

An estimate was provided for members to review work that needs to be done in the Middle School Gymnasium. Estimate includes the replacement of existing walk-draw curtains with vinyl fold up curtains. Backboard perimeters will have the installation of perimeter LED kits, as well as additional upgrades to the existing backboards.

Upgrade Total: \$75,000

Student Information Software:

This request is to replace the existing software through a conversion process for student information data compilation, as well as Special Education software. This needs to be done in order to fulfill Federal and State reporting compliances. The existing software is no longer able to accommodate State reporting obligations.

Purchase Total: \$76,712.

Duo-Mobile Authentication:

The request for Duo-Mobile Installation/Setup software for dual security internet and application usage is required to be upgraded.

Upgrade Total: \$24,750

Stall Brook Elementary School:

Information was provided for the request of an inclusive playground for Stall Brook Elementary School. This request is to replace the outdated existing structure.

Upgrade Total: \$45,000

B. Boyd made a motion to recommend the School Department Capital Requests, as listed, from Free Cash. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 4/0.

New Business, Emails, Correspondence, Bills:

The next Finance Committee Meeting will take place on Monday, April 28, 2025, at 5:00 pm, in the Arcand Meeting Room.

K. Keppler made a motion to adjourn at 7:15 pm. Seconded by B. Boyd. Approved 4/0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina M. Griffin

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