

To: Josh Donati, Chair, DSC Finance Subcommittee
Fm: Samuel A. Rippin, Assistant Superintendent, Business and Finance
Dt: September 1, 2020
Re: Impact of Pandemic/Hybrid Learning on Fee Based Programming FY 2021

Please accept this narrative as both an overview of the overall funding sources for the Dedham Public Schools for FY 2021 (2020-2021 academic year), as well as specific information relative to our fee based programs that would be impacted due to the pandemic and having schools open in a hybrid format starting on September 16, 2020.

For FY 2021, there are three funding sources for the Dedham Public Schools. These sources are the following:

1. Local Education Appropriation (LEA). For FY 2021 the amount is \$42,576,992
2. Revolving Fund Balances as of 6/30/20:
 - a. School Lunch \$128,191
 - b. ECEC PK \$105,999
 - c. Busing \$ 44,590
 - d. Athletics \$ 9,900
 - e. Technology Fee \$ 781
3. Stimulus Grants Awarded
 - a. Coronavirus Relief Fund (CvRF) Schools \$601,425
 - b. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Schools \$264,212
 - c. Coronavirus Aid Relief Economic Security (CARES) Town \$2,230,000

Within all of these three categories, I will explain what amounts are available and planned to be accessed for each of the Fee Based Programs noted below:

School Nutrition Program:

As you are well aware, the last day of in-person instruction for students in Dedham was Thursday March 12, 2020. From March 13, 2020 through the present, students have been fed remotely via distribution centers located across the Town. For the 2019-2020 school year; given the slow ramp up for meals to be picked up as well as a delay in USDA providing a waiver to make all meals free for Dedham children; revenue fell by approximately \$200K versus budget. This shortfall was bridged by charging salaries of \$136,052 to CvRF and \$56,361 to the LEA for a total of \$192,413 to cover the aforementioned shortfall.

Given that we have both increased Type A meals (regular lunch) prices at the Elementary and Middle School levels for this September, as well as USDA extending the waiver for all DPS lunches to be free until at least 12/31/20; there is no need for any additional SC action nor bailout of the revolving fund for FY 2021.

ECEC Pre Kindergarten, DELTA, Before and After School Program (ECEC):

I wish to speak about DELTA and the ECEC Before and After School Programs first as they are both fee based and are not planned to need any subsidy from stimulus grants.

DELTA is expected to enroll 15 students paying \$9,500 per student inclusive of before and after school care. The \$142,500 would sufficiently cover a teacher and two paraprofessionals needed to staff DELTA.

The ECEC Before and After School program charges \$8.75 per day for 1.25 hours of AM programming and \$21.00 per day for 3.00 hours of PM programming. Staffing is covered by paraprofessionals based on staffing ratios along with a stipend for the coordinator of the program. Based on the flexibility of the staffing pattern noted it is expected that revenues will continue to be sufficient to cover expenses and therefore no subsidy will be needed for this program as well.

The ECEC Pre Kindergarten program will require a subsidy of \$250,000 out of the CvRF for the 2020-2021 school year. This is due to class sizes being limited to 12 students versus the 17 students that were planned and budgeted. Additionally, tuitions will need to be prorated to reflect remote learning that will take place on Wednesdays. The combination of these two changes will result in the loss of \$250,000 of tuition revenue while maintaining budgeted staffing levels.

School Transportation:

For the 2019-2020 school year, we charged a user fee for those not eligible for a fee waiver for distance more than 2 miles Grades 1-6 or on Free or Reduced Lunch of \$180 (\$1 per day) for a round trip and a family cap of \$420 for the year. Given the shutdown due to the pandemic, we only had 114 of the 180 days of in person instruction. We offered a prorated refund (or applied credit) of \$66 for a round trip pass sold. The lost revenue was more than offset by negotiated concessions by Connolly Bus totaling \$118,609.

For the 2020-2021 school year, there would be a need for a subsidy to cover lost revenue in excess of what Connolly Bus would offer in concessions (\$22,143) for the 13 days of 180 instructional days not in-person. The budgeted revenue for FY 2021 was \$66,946 assuming 100% in person for 180 days. Given the hybrid model along with capacity limitations on buses (23 versus 47 for MS/HS and 71 ES). we would at best only collect \$25,000 with a prorated fee and limited ridership due to capacity caps.

If we suspend the fee for FY 2021, the subsidy needed from the CvRF would be \$44,803. Again, I would recommend suspension of the fee given the administrative burden weighed against the limited amount of revenue that would be collected.

Athletics:

For the 2019-2020 school year, we charged \$75 per sport to a \$300 cap at the HS level and \$50 per sport at the MS level. Due to the pandemic, the Spring sports season was cancelled in its entirety. We refunded or carried over a credit for fees paid for the Spring season. We paid Spring coaches 10% of their full stipend for work that they performed in anticipation of a Spring season occurring.

For the 2020-2021 school year, we now know that four seasons will replace the Fall/Winter/Spring seasons. We look to charge the same fees as they represent the lowest fees in the region. With respect to what we pay coaches, we look to pay a percentage for shortened seasons (10 versus 20 games) based on the number of hours worked versus what would be worked in a full season. Speaking with Athletic Director, Steve Traister, it is expected that for a 10 game season, the stipend would be a $\frac{2}{3}$ stipend based on some tasks being worked at 100% (practices, sign ups, training, etc). I will provide you more information as Steve is estimating hours worked in a 10 game season. No subsidy will be needed here as we anticipate savings in coaching stipends and transportation that would be offset by additional custodial details and cleaning supplies related to COVID.

Technology Fees:

Technology fees, if waived, would require a substantial subsidy from the CvRF fund in the amount of approximately \$100,000. This is due to both the expansion of the number of chromebooks that have been issued for home use in the district along with its revolving fund only containing \$781 as of FY 2020 year end.

For the 2019-2020 school year, the Technology Fee was \$50 that effectively covered the cost of an insurance policy to cover breakage or loss of the equipment. DPS collected \$45,446 in fees for FY 2020. Given the track record of breakage and loss, the insurance company is no longer writing new policies for DPS and we will effectively be self insured. With that in mind and having roughly 2,000 devices uninsured, we would look to placecard \$100,000 from CvRF to purchase an inventory of devices and parts to repair/replace devices to allow for quick turnaround for students who in most cases would be learning 60% or more remotely.

I would recommend waiving this fee because we have instituted the hybrid model and parents, through no fault of their own, have the need for their children to have devices be at home and travel to and from school in a hybrid learning environment.

Stimulus Grants - School versus Town controlled:

School Controlled Stimulus Grants:

ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief):

Funded in the amount of \$264,212. Of the \$264,212, DPS has to share with four private schools (Rashi, Nobles, Ursuline and DCD) for a total of \$98,434 leaving a balance of \$165,778 available for the DPS. This can be used for expenses incurred from 3/13/2020 through 9/30/2022. These funds have been allocated as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. District Technology | \$125,000 |
| 2. Supplies and Materials | \$ 20,798 |
| 3. Improving District Preparedness | \$ 19,980 |

CvRF (Coronavirus Relief Fund):

Funded in the amount of \$601,425 based on 2,673 foundation enrollment multiplied by \$225 for each student. This can be used for expenses incurred from 3/1/2020 through 12/31/2020. Only a very small portion of this amount (\$2,700) is required to be shared with TEC Collaborative for 12 students at \$225 each.

These funds have been and are anticipated to be spent in the following manner:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. School Nutrition COVID excess staffing | \$136,052 |
| 2. ECEC Pre Kindergarten unbudgeted staffing | \$250,000 |
| 3. HVAC needs across all 7 schools COVID related | \$ 35,000 |
| 4. Busing unbudgeted shortfall due to COVID | \$ 44,803 |
| 5. TEC Collaborative subgrant | \$ 2,700 |
| 6. Technology self insuring devices | \$100,000 |
| 7. Additional bus monitors for all buses | \$ 32,870 |

Town Controlled Stimulus Grants:

CARES (Coronavirus Aid Relief Economic Security):

Funded in the amount of \$2,230,000 to be used for expenses incurred from 3/1/2020 through 12/31/2020. The Town has drawn \$480,000 for FY 2020 leaving \$1,750,000 available for FY 2021 through 12/31/2020. Additionally, the Town has created a FEMA account to charge potentially reimbursable expenses there first to receive 75% reimbursement to only have the remaining 25% to be charged to CARES.

For **FY 2020**, the DPS charged the following expenses to CARES:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Chromebooks and related carts | \$249,243 |
| 2. SPED in home therapy costs | \$ 30,024 |
| 3. Food Services equipment | \$ 35,746 |
| 4. School Facilities (25% net FEMA) | \$ 19,640 |
| Total | \$334,653 |

For **FY 2021**, the DPS is requesting to have the following expenses charged to CARES:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Air purifiers purchased to date | \$144,880 |
| 2. Air purifiers additional needed | \$ 25,275 |
| 3. SPED compensatory services | \$180,000 |
| 4. Distance learning software | \$ 92,799 |
| 5. School Facilities (25% net FEMA) | \$173,952 |
| Total | \$616,906 |
| Cumulative Grand Total | \$951,559 |

In sum, in my opinion, there is much in the way of excess capacity in CARES for unexpected DPS needs that we could tap into; especially as I also expect that the 12/31/20 deadline will be extended to 6/30/21 to allow for Cities and Towns to fully expend their allocations.

I look forward to discussing my analysis with the DSC Finance Subcommittee tomorrow.

Cc: Michael J. Welch, Superintendent