



***Regional School Unit 5***  
**Durham • Freeport • Pownal**

*“To inspire and support every learner by challenging minds, building character, sparking creativity, and nurturing passions.”*

Becky Foley, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Rick Kusturin, Director of Finance & Human Resources

Cynthia Alexander, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Bonnie Violette, Ph.D., Director of Instructional Support

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Date: November 29, 2021

Committee: Finance

Chair: Beth Munsen

In attendance: Beth Munsen, Rick Kusturin, Michelle Ritcheson, Becky Foley, Peggy Brown

Absent: None

Meeting Date: November 17th, 2021, Durham Community School library.

The Chair of the Finance Committee opened the meeting at 5:23 pm.

The Committee worked on warrant review and signatures.

The Committee was then briefed on the status of the FY22 Budget and reviewed the October report. Of note was a question regarding the available balance remaining. A review of encumbrances and how they affect the available balance was discussed.

A discussion occurred regarding the possible offering of a retention bonus for hard to fill positions within the district. The Committee required more information needed before a decision could be reached, specifically information from other places that have utilized this tool to see how it worked for them and the impact on other employees not receiving the incentives.

Dr. Foley then presented her update on the issue of finding a cost-sharing consultant in accordance with the Board's direction. As of the date of the meeting, there were no interested parties in taking that work. Dr. Foley suggested to engage a Drummond lawyer for the work; also mentioned were a resubmittal of previous Finance Committee work surrounding the issue. The Committee asked the Superintendent to reach back out to the person who appeared most qualified but couldn't take on the work this year to see when they thought they might be able to help, if at all. If she wasn't an option, then the Committee would need to go back to the Board for a conversation on next steps.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm. The next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee is December 8th, 2021, at 5:00 pm at the Freeport High School Library.