

June 22, 2023

To: MERSD School Committee (SC)

From: Avi Urbas, Director of Finance & Operations

Copy: Pam Beaudoin, Superintendent of Schools

Re: Financials for 6/26/23 School Committee Meeting

Hello, MERSD School Committee.

Attached please find financials for the 6/26/23 School Committee meeting consisting of:

- Accounts Payable (AP) vouchers 1070-1077 (FY23), and 1000-1003 (FY24)
- Treasurer reports for May

AP Vouchers

FY23: We have several transfer requests for Student Activities reflecting increased end-of-year activities and events for students. Check details are included in the excel documentation.

V1070 - Student Activity (SA) Account transfer request of \$1,974.56 from the Middle School to replenish their checking account from the MS Savings account.

V1071 - Student Activity (SA) Account transfer request of \$30,253.59 from the High School to replenish their checking account from the HS Savings account.

V1072 - Student Activity (SA) Account transfer request of \$2,465.00 from the Middle School to replenish their checking account from the MS Savings account.

V1073 - \$24.13 to MA Department of Revenue (DOR) for taxes on meals purchased by adults in May. Placed on a separate voucher because funds are transmitted electronically to the DOR.

V1074 - Student Activity (SA) Account transfer request of \$3,343.73 from the Middle School to replenish their checking account from the MS Savings account.

V1075 - Student Activity (SA) Account transfer request of \$4,904.34 from Memorial School to replenish their checking account from the MMES Savings account.

V1076 – main AP voucher totaling \$397,814. Of note:

- Tufts rebates –Tufts is required to credit our account if claims they pay fall below a certain percentage of premium paid by MERSD and employees/retirees. Participating employees and retirees are therefore due their share based on their contribution rate (e.g. 25% or 30%). Active staff were credited via adjustment to payroll withholdings, but MTRS would not process these refunds for its retirees, so we had to pay via AP. One individual's credit is noticeably larger than others because it also reflects a plan change credit that was retroactively applied by Tufts.
- \$9.7K to MA Dept. of Unemployment. As you may recall, these expenses have declined considerably over the past few months, but the current month charges are higher than expected. We have reached out to unemployment to question several of the charges on

this bill, but have been advised to pay first and then await a credit if awarded to avoid interest and fees while they look into our questions.

V1077 - Student Activity (SA) Account transfer request of \$32,234.32 from High School to replenish their checking account from the HS Savings account.

FY24:

These vouchers are for items that must be paid in early July after the new fiscal year begins.

- Voucher 1001 is for bond interest for the HSMS project due on 7/15/23, which is already approved by both towns at town meeting via their approval of MERSD's FY24 Capital Budget, which was not impacted by the failed override.
- V1000 and V1002 are for health insurance and pension payments that are due at the beginning of the month. These vouchers, which are part of our Operating Budget would typically be pending approval of the reconsidered FY24 Operating budget by member towns, which is slated for next week. In the event that either town does not approve the budget, however, it is assumed that these payments will still need to be made even with a DESE-authorized level funding (aka "1/12th budget). For this reason, we are requesting that School Committee to approve these vouchers at this time.
 - V1000 - \$330 to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for payments due in July on behalf of legacy retirees that MERSD migrated to Medicare for health insurance after their initial eligibility.
 - V1002:
 - Payments to Tufts Health for July premium on active and retiree plans. Reflects the 3.9% final negotiated rate increase.
 - \$728K payment to Essex Regional Retirement System reflecting the FY24 employer pension contribution on behalf of participating non-licensed staff, such as teaching assistants, administrative assistants, facilities and business office staff. In line with budget expectations. More information about MERSD pension obligations can be found in our Annual Letter to taxpayers about 'unfunded liabilities' which is posted on our Finance & Operations website.

Treasurer Reports for May

Reports for May are attached, showing total cash of \$12.7 million essentially unchanged vs. March and April. The standard detailed listing of May incoming receipts is also included.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Avi Urbas