

April 1, 2022

To: MERSD School Committee

From: Avi Urbas, Director of Finance & Operations

Copy: Pam Beaudoin, Superintendent of Schools

Re: Financials/Warrants for 4/5/22 School Committee Meeting

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Greetings, MERSD School Committee.

Attached please find financials for Tuesday's 4/5/22 School Committee meeting. We have just one voucher, and also an update on the food service procurement process.

**Voucher 1048:** Accounts Payable voucher totaling \$767.3K. Of note:

- Curriculum & Technology:
  - \$3.25K to Mobile Guardian (via Diner's Club) for recurring annual license for iPad device management software, which allows our tech team to remotely and collectively update devices for software/app changes as needed instead of updating them in person, one at a time. We also had to reissue the prior year payments and void the original checks, due to problems on the vendor side, hence the 2<sup>nd</sup> set of payments to Mobile Guardian on this voucher.
  - \$4K annual service agreement with Focus Technology to provide rapid response whenever needed for Core Switch – through which all Internet traffic flows.
  - \$5.7K to Univest Capital for 1<sup>st</sup> of 3-year financing payment for 45 iPads at EES, at \$350 each. Thirty units are replacement of the media center devices for the technology class, as the original units were given out to classrooms as part of the "1 to 1" student to device initiative, which became necessary during COVID. The other 15 units relate to enrollment growth at EES in the K-2 grades.
- Facilities & Operations:
  - \$45K to Electronic Security & Control Systems for update of MERSD's security video software system and infrastructure. This upgrade is charged to our Stabilization Fund, and was presented to School Committee last spring as part of a plan to equalize technology at EES following the upgrades associated with the new MMES. These invoices include \$8.3K to introduce the Milestone security camera software system at EES, plus \$15K for the addition of exterior cameras at EES to match the extent of external coverage footprint that we have at all schools. Additionally, \$21.8K of this cost is the pre-planned capital investment to put the MSHS on the same system, replacing the legacy system that was installed in 2009 when the building was constructed. Having a single system provides video access when needed for any MERSD building to first responders in both towns who work together as part of our security team for emergency planning.
  - \$9.3K to Jeffreys Creek for snow/ice treatment through mid-March bringing our seasonal total to \$75K, which is at the high end of our typical budget range of \$50-85K.
- Athletics:

- \$1.6K to John Bishop and Andrew Dominick for 50% deposit on rental of chase boats used for sailing team
- Special Education:
  - \$3.2K to Phyllis Alessio who provides contracted psychological evaluations in the event that a backlog develops. This happens from time-to-time and we have a compliance requirement to process the evaluations in a timely manner.
- Finance:
  - \$10.3K in closing costs for \$1.3 million Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs), to Bond Counsel (Locke Lord, \$4.3K), financial advisors (Hilltop Securities, \$5.3K) and custodial agent for the flow of funds (US Bank, \$500). These costs are all covered by added “premium” (extra funds) provided in the BANS from the lender.

**Food Service Survey:**

We will be issuing a bid for our food service program in the next 1-2 weeks. As part of that, we initiated a set of surveys for parents, students and staff about their impressions of the program. Overall, respondents indicated that they do rely on the program and felt that more could be done to improve the quality of offerings. To some extent, these responses are reflective of slimmed down options initiated during COVID. With a more normal operating mode expected in the coming year, we do expect any vendor, including Chartwells to be back to greater number of options each day.

We will go through some of the survey results on Tuesday – here are links to the survey results.

Parent Survey:

- Survey slides: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-66R\\_2B3ulzjU1p9AAzWgpGbA\\_3D\\_3D/](https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-66R_2B3ulzjU1p9AAzWgpGbA_3D_3D/)
- Responses by school (i.e., cross tabulation) for:
  - Q3: How important is program to you: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/crosstabs/SM-FoT283IjjiHnK51\\_2F0CwWUQ\\_3D\\_3D](https://www.surveymonkey.com/crosstabs/SM-FoT283IjjiHnK51_2F0CwWUQ_3D_3D)
  - Q5: Quality of food from parent/guardian perspective: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/crosstabs/SM-Ek2thUk94Dwc\\_2FPVkJNjv1Gw\\_3D\\_3D](https://www.surveymonkey.com/crosstabs/SM-Ek2thUk94Dwc_2FPVkJNjv1Gw_3D_3D)
  - Q19: Comfort w/letting kids buy nutritionally compliant snacks: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/crosstabs/SM-ZSaFVUB\\_2BZHUFZoMrqj063g\\_3D\\_3D](https://www.surveymonkey.com/crosstabs/SM-ZSaFVUB_2BZHUFZoMrqj063g_3D_3D)

Student Survey: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-SX\\_2B93tfc4WKPunNf\\_2By6aA\\_3D\\_3D/](https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-SX_2B93tfc4WKPunNf_2By6aA_3D_3D/)

Staff Survey: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-DoNGgGRyUWWe67cJngh9JA\\_3D\\_3D/](https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-DoNGgGRyUWWe67cJngh9JA_3D_3D/)

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Avi Urbas