

**Connecticut State Board of Education
Finance, Audit and Budget Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 4, 2024
450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford
Plaza North - Meeting Room A**

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Mr. Donald Harris, Jr., Chair
Mr. Allan Taylor

Via TEAMS: Ms. Bonnie Burr
Mr. Roger Persson, Chief of Fiscal and Administrative Services

Others Present: Monique Coates, Director of Office of Internal Audits
Justin Cleary, Associate Accounts Examiner – OIA
Kerrian Denham, Administrative Assistant - OIA

Member Absent: Ms. Patricia Keavney-Maruca

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Chair, Donald Harris.

I. Approval of Minutes – February 29, 2024

A motion was made by Donald Harris, seconded by both Allan Taylor and Bonnie Burr, and unanimously adopted to approve the minutes of the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee meeting held on February 29, 2024.

Vote: Yes: 3
Absent: 1

III. Office of Internal of Internal Audit (OIA) – Status of Current Activity

Action item: Board to review draft audit plan for approval in August/September meeting.

Monique Coates provided updates and highlights on the status of activities/projects the OIA team has conducted since her arrival. These included the following:

- Review of 2023-2024 single audits is ongoing. Wrapping up any and completing any outstanding Federal and State Single Audit reviews for fiscal years 2022-2023.
- Review of Education Cost Sharing Grant Final Calculation was completed and report submitted
- Special review including a site visit was completed of Torrington Preschool completed at request of OEC
- An increase to the budget was requested in light of the increases in single audits and anticipated future special review projects

In addition, the following upcoming projects were discussed: Planned site visits to East Haven following a whistleblower's report and future multiple site visits and reviews as requested by the Commissioner.

IV. Financial Matters (Mr. Roger Persson)

Mr. Persson discussed budget sweeps for FY 2024 including the following:

- \$5.5 million from Personal Services
- \$12.5 million from Sheff Settlement, originally slated for carry-forward
- \$300,000 from Non-Sheff Transportation
- \$2 million from Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship program, this still leaves an approximate surplus of \$1.5 million
- \$3 million from Charter Schools
- \$5 million from Magnet Schools

Mr. Persson also updated the Committee on the upcoming Finance Advisory Committee, prompted by the uncapping of the VoAg Grant for FY2024. The \$759,000 shortfall will be covered by surplus from Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship program. Additional current action items, State Audit for 2023 and 2024 fiscal years, the disposal of EANS equipment and supplies on the state surplus website. The Bureau of Fiscal Services (BFS) has hired a new Supervising Accountant, who will start on June 14th. BFS is also currently recruiting additional staff members including three Fiscal Administrative Assistants, one Grants & Contracts Specialist, one Storekeeper, and one Mail handler.

Recorded by Kerrian Denham, Administrative Assistant - Office of Internal Audit