

Roxanne Maher

From: Carmen Garcia Irizarry
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 4:25 PM
To: Anthony Favry
Cc: boe@ledyard.net; Town Council Group; Jay Hartling
Subject: BOE December 10th Regular Meeting

Dear Chairman Favry and BOE members,

I hope you all had a nice weekend. I won't be able to attend tomorrow's regular BOE meeting as I will be across the hall in the LHS auditorium for the LMS Band concert. Councilor Ryan will be attending the meeting as the Town Council liaison.

Although, I won't be at the meeting I would like to give you a few updates that Councilor Ryan can go into more details during the meeting. Last week, the Finance committee met and after discussing projects that came under budget, it was determined that there were funds available for additional projects. The committee discussed new projects for which the funds could be used. After careful consideration, the committee approved Town ARPA funds for several school projects including \$50,000 for the surface of the GFS/JWL playground. Councilor Jessica Buhle brought to the attention of the committee the need of additional funds for the playground project, and the GFS/JWL PTO President, Sheila Downes, spoke during the meeting and provided additional information and answered questions that the committee had. These funds were approved with the condition that one of the contractors from the quotes the GFS/JWL PTO has is state-approved or that the contractor that did the surface for the playground behind the Gales Ferry library, who is state-approved, can do the work. The reason for this is that if the contractor is not state-approved then the project has to go to bid for a period of at least 10 business days (any project above \$15,000 has to go to bid per the Town Charter), discuss the bids, choose one, and have the contract signed by December 31st (per ARPA funds rules all contracts have to be signed by December 31st or the Town loses the funds). Unfortunately, it would be almost impossible to accomplish all this in such a short period of time.

The final approval of these funds will go on Wednesday to the whole Town Council at our regular meeting in the Town Hall Annex at 7pm. Before the regular Town Council meeting, the Administration committee has its regular meeting at 5:30pm also at the Town Hall Annex.

If you have any questions before this Wednesday's Town Council meeting, please feel free to reach out to me, the Chairman of the Finance committee - Mr. Tony Saccone, or any of the Finance committee members - Councilor Tim Ryan and Councilor Jessica Buhle.

I am really excited about the Town being able to transfer funds, in addition to the \$70,000 already approved in the 2024-2025 budget, to the GFS/JWL playground project. The GFS/JWL PTO has done a marvelous job raising the majority of the funds needed for this project, and this would mean that they now can focus on other needs at the schools. I want to commend the GFS/JWL PTO President Sheila Downes, the rest of the PTO members, Mr. Westkott and our own Town Councilor Jessica Buhle for all the work they have done to make this project a reality.

Thank you very much for your attention!!

Respectfully,
Carmen N. Garcia-Irizarry
Ledyard Town Councilor - BOE liaison
Sent from my iPad