

**WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**



<u>BOE Committee:</u> Anthony Fleres (Chair) John Farrell Ellen Walsh	<u>Administration:</u> Victoria Kniewel Larry Shanok Lawrence LoCastro	<u>Guest/Public:</u>
--	---	----------------------

March 20, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM at Central Office in the superintendent's office. Topics covered included:

Review Agenda Items: Reviewed key agenda items related to the Public Hearing, budget, and bond refinancing. Action on all of these are supported by the committee.

2012-2013 Budget: With over 90% of district revenue coming from tax levy, it generally is not a matter of whether there will be an increase in the tax levy but how large the increase will be. This year is an exception. With a small 1.89% budget-to-budget increase, along with higher dollar amounts for both tax relief and state aid, the total tax levy associated with the 2012-2013 budget is \$1.5 million less than a year ago.

Data was reviewed which demonstrated that the past ten years has clearly seen lower budget-to-budget increases than the ten years prior. The last four years have been especially noteworthy: increases of 1.6%, 0.0%, 1.4% and this year's 1.89% increase. This year's total tax levy declines by \$1.5 million.

Refunding of the 2002 Refunding Bonds: The state accountability act requires districts to refund eligible outstanding bonds when the economics favors it. Come September, the remaining 2002 Refunding Bonds are eligible for new refunding. The next agenda has necessary documentation to initiate this process. While results will vary with the state of the economy at the time of the refunding, net savings are likely to exceed \$150,000 annually for each of eight years.

Technology Refresh: The committee further discussed the program outlined by Rick Cave at the last committee meeting. Choices were narrowed and the administration will review tonight's discussion with Mr. Cave to facilitate progress on this year's effort.

This annual effort has kept the district at a satisfactory level of its district technology without having to dedicate a fixed portion of the budget to such efforts. The potential projects this year number a total of nine with an aggregate cost of \$921,000. Past years have seen selections of a bit more than half of that dollar level. The discussion covered which efforts are needed as soon as possible and which can possibly wait without too large a cost of delay.

Meeting Dates: The committee will meet April 17th at 6:00 PM; May 15th at 6:30 PM; and June 19th at 6:30 PM.

Non-Affiliate Process: The Finance Committee will serve as the review function for this year's edition of salary review. An overall level of dollars to be available must be set and a broad sense of its distribution.

Recent years have seen growing efforts to utilize merit concepts. Should this year's pool be small in size, progress in merit pay may be small this year. This year the non-affiliate group has been making a 1.5% of pay contribution to health care and next year they move to a larger percentage of premium level of contribution. Some pay increase may be needed to maintain an equitable pay structure.

The meeting moved to closed session for matters of personnel.

The meeting returned to open session. There was initial discussion of a baseline communication from the board attorney on both the use of Community Education fund balance and the status of the board office. There will be more discussion at future committee meetings. In general, the Board of Education has fairly wide latitude in utilizing Community Education fund balance for actions that serve community education purposes, including capital expenditures.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 17, 2012, 6:00 PM @ Grover MS, Faculty Dining

Topic for Next Meeting

Review Agenda Items
Community Education Fund Balance
Board Office Status

Future Topics:

Impact of Recent Legislation
Policies