

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



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| <u>BOE Committee:</u><br>Anthony Fleres (Chair)<br>John Farrell<br>Ellen Walsh | <u>Administration:</u><br>Victoria Kniewel<br>Larry Shanok<br>Lawrence LoCastro<br>Russ Schumacher | <u>Guest/Public:</u> |
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**April 17, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM at Grover Middle School in the faculty dining area. Topics covered included:

Review Agenda Items: The refunding was discussed; significant savings are possible if current economic conditions persist. The agenda items were reviewed and are supported.

2012-13 Budget: It was noted that the coming year is likely to see significant increases in prescription and dental premiums; the first outlook on prescription is a 14% increase while dental seeks an 18% increase. The district will strive to reduce these figures, but unlike a year ago, lost ratios are unfavorable (a year ago favorable loss ratios led to 0% increases). The 2012-13 budget will also be impacted by the January 1, 2013, increase in the State Employee Health Benefit Plan (the January 1, 2012 increase was not announced until October 2011); the increases for the last three years were 10.0%, 8.5% and 25.0%.

June Reserve Actions: For the past few years, the district has utilized the ability to add to capital reserves in June since the district had not been able to place capital reserve funds directly into the budget. The 2012-13 budget once again places funds directly into capital reserve, making June action less essential.

However, the recently extended benefits of 20 weeks of unemployment compensation places the district's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund in jeopardy of paying out over \$420,000 over the coming months. Such a payment would wipe-out the trust fund. In addition to June reserve actions, or in place of such actions, it makes sense to transfer 2011-12 funds to the trust fund so as to keep it in the black as of June 30, 2012.

The Finance Committee will consider these moves and make a recommendation at its May meeting.

Technology Refresh: Further discussion settled in on the new priority list. The rapid change in technology makes settling on actions difficult – only a few years ago iPads did not exist and now they play a role in instruction. These items total an estimated \$696,000 and focus on, in order of priority: 100 computers to replace obsolescent ones at High School North; 200 Mac computers at the K-3 schools to replace obsolescent computers; two camcorders for the cable station due to obsolescence; add wireless licenses to allow additional access points for the growing use of wireless; replace 100 classroom monitors (the first of a series of needed replacements); upgrade the wireless network to automatically connect wireless devices to using the district filtered connection; and, replacing a network core switch (the device is 10 years old and is no longer supported by its manufacturer).

While the consensus was to proceed, there was a strong desire to have the choices be made in the context of a multi-year plan in the future. In the coming months, the BOE will be given such a perspective on technology in the district.

Other Business: Completion of the DRCC agreement will be made by another attorney for the district. Test results on air quality at the central office showed that there is not a problem with carbon monoxide or carbon dioxide nor with mold. Sensitivities to constant exposure to the basement area will have the administration seeking a long term solution to office space. For now, Payroll will continue in the former first floor conference room, Human Resources will operate from the annex, Community Education will operate from Millstone River School, and the basement will be used as a meeting area. A homeowners association has requested that the district pay a portion of their costs to maintain their drainage basin. The committee will seek an explanation for the association's belief that the district has a legal responsibility and their basis for determining a cost sharing rationale.

Closed session: The committee moved to closed session.

The committee returned to open session and adjourned at 7:30 PM to go the Board of Education meeting.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 15, 2012, 6:30 PM @ Central Office**

Topic for Next Meeting

Review Agenda Items

Reserve actions.

SREC action

Budget Process Review Committee action

Future Topics:

Impact of Recent Legislation

Policies