

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



<u>BOE Committee:</u> Anthony Fleres (Chair) Hemant Marathe Yibao Xu	<u>Administration:</u> Victoria Kniewel Larry Shanok Lawrence LoCastro	<u>Guest:</u> Richard Kaye
---	---	-------------------------------

March 19, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM in the guidance conference room at High School North. Topics covered included:

Review Agenda Items: In addition to the usual agenda items there is a memorandum of agreement (MOA) and two capital contract awards of long lead-time items. The MOA is similar to other ones required by the State of New Jersey; in this case, statute 6A:23A-5.3 requires participation in SEMI (Special Education Medicaid Initiative) at the cost of the withholding of state aid. Therefore, this agreement is not voluntary. The district had four bid openings March 19, 2013; two of them are for long lead-time for equipment and by acting soon conserves the three weeks between board meetings subject to board attorney approval. The agenda also includes renewals of several services including Aramark for a fourth year of service as well as Edvocate for the associated monitoring effort.

2013-2014 Budget Progress: The official County Office approval of the 2013-14 budget was on March 15, 2013. The Public Hearing will take place on March 27, 2013.

D.A. Nolt Change Order: Nolt has engaged an additional attorney and seems to be both pursuing his lawsuit as well as hinting at the possibility of a settlement.

June Reserve Actions: The pattern of capital reserve actions of the past years has served the district well and is likely to serve as a good guide for June 2013 too. In some years, there has also been June action for adding to maintenance reserves and for the strengthening of the unemployment fund; these will be watched for possible action this June if warranted.

Professional Services–Auditor: The value of engaging the district’s public auditor for the analysis of the financials for the year-ending June 30, 2013, is recommended; it will be on the April 16, 2013, agenda.

Direct Install: The district had considered participation some years ago. The contractors engaged by the utilities were unable to provide the services discussed at the time. A new contractor has provided new assertions and documentation. Our board attorney has found deficiencies with their standard agreement and the Committee saw no reason to advance with documents not adhering to our attorney’s advice.

Affordable Care Act: The act appears to set a large number of restrictions and costs on employers across the country. The ACA’s implications are complex and not very transparent. It appears that the ACA will either require the addition of many to the benefit rolls or require a severe restriction in the employment of individuals that previously worked several positions as needed through the school year. Substitutes and part time personnel will likely see large changes in how they are utilized due to the requirements of the ACA.

Other Business: Senate bills propose requiring the school districts to use a county co-op and pay the county fees. It appears to ignore the fact that most school districts and municipalities actively utilize a variety of co-ops and shared services to get the most advantageous price on a variety of goods and services. Requiring the use of a county entity will increase costs to districts as no one entity obtains the lowest price on every item. Another bill further complicates outsourcing of services such as custodial and food services and requires that they be brokered by the county at a fee. Both are poor ideas.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 23, 2013, 6:30 PM @ Central Office

Topic for Next Meeting

Review Agenda Items

Non-affiliated

Technology Refresh

Future Topics:

Impact of Recent Legislation

Policies