

**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/Public:</u> Rick Cave
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April 23, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM at the Central Office. Mr. Xu was not present. Mr. Xu arrived at 7:00 PM.

Closed Session: Discussed personnel matters.

At 7:15 PM the Committee moved to open session. Topics covered included:

Technology Refresh: Mr. Cave provided background on the refresh candidates, the technology planning effort and the 1:1 Pilot Program. The technology plan is about instruction and not about equipment. The plan and pilot suggest that technology will need to be an integral, continuing part of the annual budget process rather than the past tactic of largely dealing with the technology funding issue through the refresh discussions. The Committee, after discussion, indicated its support of the refresh projects.

The impact of the State of New Jersey's PARCC timetable (taking of tests through use of technology) was discussed. The State appears to have set a time goal that districts will not be able to meet, especially since the goal comes without state dollars to support it.

Review Agenda Items: The upcoming agenda deals with a number of items that arise from the shift of the Board of Education reorganization meeting from April to January. Surprisingly, neither the State of New Jersey nor the New Jersey School Boards Association have commented in a substantial manner on this issue. In general, the agenda seeks to regularize board actions between now and the January reorganization meeting. It generally approves actions for the 2013-14 school year, but avoids decisions relating to the 2014-15 budget. The Committee supports the agenda.

Village Addition Status; Construction Manager Concept: Architectural and engineering work continues on the addition. Recently, the topic of using a construction manager for the project has surfaced. Nationally known construction managers were used 10-15 years ago as the district expanded; results were less than satisfactory. In the past ten years, a substantial amount of construction has been implemented without hiring a construction manager. Close attention by the architect, as well as good work by the involved district personnel, have resulted in fairly good construction experiences for the district. The Committee felt that the district would continue in the manner of recent years, without a construction manager. Should a construction manager be sought, an RFP process would be followed with its attendant time demands and cost.

Meritorious Budget Award: Larry LoCastro outlined the likely submission of the 2013-14 budget to ASBO International's Meritorious Budget Award. There is only one district in New Jersey that has earned the award to date. It would show a high level of technical performance should the district apply for and earn the award.

State Aid Based on Average Daily Attendance Resolution: Some districts are suspicious of the State's moving to average daily attendance; more than seven days absence by students could result in loss of state aid; it is not clear on what basis and amount that the loss would engender. Some districts are passing resolutions opposing this move by the State. The Committee did not see any utility to taking action at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 6:30 PM @ Central Office

Topic for Next Meeting

Review Agenda Items
End of school year 2012-13
Food Service

Future Topics:

Impact of Recent Legislation
Policies