

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



<u>BOE Committee:</u> Dana Krug (Chair) Anthony Fleres Yu "Taylor" Zhong, (arrived at 6:35 PM)	<u>Administration:</u> David Aderhold Larry Shanok Lawrence LoCastro	<u>Guest/Public:</u>
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**January 22, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM at Central Office. Topics covered included:

Meeting Dates. An interactive discussion ensued as an effort was made to select dates that worked for finance while considering other committees. Dates were selected through August so as to allow some advance consideration of both board retreat dates and vacation plans. The next three meetings are: Monday, February 10, 2014, Tuesday, March 18, 2014 and Tuesday, April 8, 2014.

Review Agenda Items. In addition to the standard agenda items, several other items were noted. These included: engaging the district public auditor for the next audit cycle; awarding contracts for the Village addition construction – this totals \$10.6 million; and, authorizing the sale of Solar Renewable Energy Certificates from power generated on the solar panels on the two high schools.

Class Size Data/Discussion. The Superintendent reviewed data on present and coming year class sizes at the K-8 schools. At this point in time, it appears that enrollment at Dutch Neck will rise, but not to the levels of several years ago; enrollment is likely to be steady at Hawk, Town Center and Wicoff, as well as at Millstone River. At Village, the new fourth grade will be less than the current one – as that grade moves up to fifth grade. A larger number of students are expected at the middle schools.

Staffing is being carefully examined and shifts in number of sections will occur at several schools to match movement in student numbers. In some cases, the addition of sections is limited by available space. Overall, growth of about two FTEs are likely at the K-3 schools while at the middle school, the half team at Grover will be brought up to a full team – an addition of 1.6 FTE.

2014-2015 Budget Progress: The budget is being developed, including staffing as noted in the class size discussion. Expenditure increases above 2% are clearly needed in several areas: special education tuition, improvement in instruction, transportation and capital outlay. The capital spending pressures are the topic for the first budget discussion at the January 28<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting.

The last Comprehensive Annual Financial Report showed that the district's depreciable assets exceed \$240 million. Even assuming zero inflation and a 40 year replacement cycle, the annual capital spending would be \$6 million. It has been nearly 20 years since the general fund capital budget has been over \$2 million. Increasing the capital budget appreciable has been postponed through adept use of capital reserves and ROD grant dollars from the State of New Jersey. In the final, fourth round of ROD grants the state approved only 12 of 58 requested projects. Clearly, the burden falls to the annual budget in the future.

As noted last month, the district has received notice from the Association of School Business Officials International, that our submission of last year's budget earned the district the association's Meritorious Budget Award. This is a noteworthy accomplishment from more than one perspective. The award comes from the district's first submission – ASBO even has a special category that first year applicants can request to buffer the impact of first time rejection syndrome. Additionally, the district is only the second New Jersey district to receive the award. The national corporate sponsor of the ASBO award is coming to the February board meeting to present the plaque representing the award.

Edvocate's December Inspection. Overall, the December inspection effort found conditions close to those of a year ago. There was, however, some variation by school. Inspection ratings at Millstone River, Town Center, Village, and Grover were very good. The high schools, while still in the average range based on Edvocate's work across the state, were noticeably below a year ago. These inspections aid in focusing effort by both in-district and contractor personnel.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02P.M.

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, February10, 2014, 6:30 PM @ Central Office**

Topic for Next Meeting  
Review Agenda Items  
Budget

Future Topics:  
Impact of Recent Legislation  
Policies  
Transportation