

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



<u>BOE Committee:</u> Dana Krug (Chair) Anthony Fleres	<u>Administration:</u> David Aderhold Larry Shanok Lawrence LoCastro	<u>Guest/Public:</u> Rick Cave
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April 8, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM at Central Office. Topics covered included:

Updates. A decision on the HSN fire alarm strobe project remains unclear. The first round of bids offers a cost about 75% higher than estimated. The district will either accept the much higher bid or reject all bids. If bids are rejected, a second round of bids will be the likely next step.

Construction has mobilized at the Village addition site.

The Food Service Committee met and interviewed two companies. The competitive negotiation process allowed by the federal government on food service contracts was employed along with a weighted criteria scoring system. After interviews and discussion, the committee applied the scoring mechanism. While close, the decision is to award Sodexo the new contract. The cents per meal for the new contract represents a reduction over the current contract. In addition, the guarantee for next year is \$85,000.

While the December monitoring by Edvocate of the Aramark effort demonstrated high scores at four schools, there were concerns about the high schools and in maintenance in general across the district. Aramark has sent out teams of personnel to troubleshoot and improve both custodial and maintenance practices in the district. In addition, a new management team has been put in place by Aramark and the early responses by principals to the changes are positive.

The updated transportation data was noted. While no further analysis will occur at this time, the topic will be revisited in the future.

Technology Refresh. Rick Cave walked the committee through the six refresh project areas. These range from replacement computers for teaching staff to replace aged and less functional units, as well as replacements for obsolescing student computers. Other priorities involve projectors in twelve rooms where the standard projector system will not work due to the configuration of the spaces. Additional projects include the replacement of SAN controllers in the High School North computer room; these controllers are nearing their end of life and are becoming less maintainable and reliable. The sixth priority concerns video control devices. It would take 600 units to complete installation in all classroom spaces in the district. These projects are estimated to cost \$685,000. Another tech issue is migration of files involved in the use of Google software; this is especially important with the Chromebook efforts of the district. The committee will consider the request and make a decision at its next meeting.

Review Agenda Items. With the board meeting three weeks away, specific items will vary, but the likely items were discussed. The committee is comfortable with the agenda. It was observed that energy bills year to date are up 21%.

2014-2015 Budget Progress: Additional cost pressures were noted during the budget discussion. In particular, pensionable wages year to date are one million dollars above the amount of a year ago. On April 7th the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Board Member Richard Kaye were at Village Grande discussing the budget. There were good questions and general support and appreciation for the direction taken by the district.

Non-Affiliate Salaries. The Superintendent discussed the format for the decision process in past years and for this year.

Board of Education Retreat Dates. The Superintendent noted possible dates in late June and July 1st and sought board feedback on the best dates.

Dyslexia Law Impact. The Superintendent discussed the creation of a teacher resource specialist position for reading interventions at the K-2 level that will help teachers to identify and work with students with dyslexia.

Assistant Principal Positions. The Superintendent discussed how the district plans associated with the Village addition will result in higher enrollment at Millstone River. When that occurs, a second assistant principal position there will make sense.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 6:30 PM @ Grover – Administrative Conf. Rm.

Topic for Next Meeting

Review Agenda Items

Budget Process Review Committee Recommendations

Future Topics:

Impact of Recent Legislation

Policies

Transportation