

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



<u>BOE Committee:</u> Louisa Ho (Chair) Anthony Fleres Yu "Taylor" Zhong	<u>Administration:</u> David Aderhold Larry Shanok	<u>Guest/Public:</u>
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**January 21, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM at Central Office. Topics covered included:

Review Agenda Items. The agenda items were reviewed and supported. At the January 6, 2015, Reorganization Meeting we approved the 2015 professional services under Public School Contracts Law (*N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5*). It was noted that this statute covers for a variety of specialized services such as "professional services" or "extraordinary unspecifiable services." At the February meeting, an updated resolution to explicitly include both services will appear on the February 17<sup>th</sup> agenda. Recent state enforcement actions with the Deptford School District have brought new levels of attention to this subject.

Business Office financial reports were distributed. It was noted that the financial "tightening" often referred to in budget discussions shows in the draft Report of the Secretary. The December 31, 2014 general fund available balance is at a solid \$12.6 million level; these are the dollars that potentially provide excess surplus for the year. However, a year ago the available balance was at the \$15.7 million level; and two years ago, the level was \$17.2 million

2015-2016 Budget Progress: The budget calendar was reviewed; the public hearing will be April 28, 2015. Submission of the budget to the county office is no later than March 20, 2015. Last year the township officials indicated that the joint meeting had value and they wanted to continue the practice. The meeting will occur before the public hearing on April 28<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that the first budget presentation will be on Tuesday, January 27, 2015.

The process for setting a capital outlay amount for the budget was reviewed. As the budget is being developed, capital spending priorities are reviewed and discussed by the Administration & Facilities Committee of the Board of Education. A first draft of 2015-2016 projects as currently planned was distributed.

Areas with potential increased expenditures include: special education, facilities, the improvement of instruction, and transportation. Also, among the difficulties in moderating the increase in the budget are: upcoming contract negotiations and increases in medical premium costs. With millions more needed for these expenditures, a total budget-to-budget increase of about 2% will be targeted by the administration as the budget is developed.

Advocate's December Inspection: December inspection results found conditions improved over those of a year ago. In general, the inspections have found improving results over the past five years. These inspections aid in focusing effort by both in-district and contractor personnel.

Promedia Technology Services: The Promedia Technology Assessment was discussed. It was noted that the consultant indicates several positive facts related to our existing technology network. More detail on recommendations is being developed.

ASBO Meritorious Budget Award: It was noted that the district received notice from the Association of School Business Officials International, that our submission of the current year's budget earned the district the association's Meritorious Budget Award for the second year in a row. After review of the submission it was decided that it should be posted on the district website.

Committee Meeting Dates: The committee dates were reviewed along with the other committees' dates and keeping in mind negotiations. The dates from March through August were agreed upon.

HS Solar Projects: With the recent sale of SRECs, the overall financial analysis of the solar projects at the high school was reviewed. All but about \$200 thousand of the original investment of almost \$1.2 million has been recouped through rebates, sale of SRECs, and the value of electricity generated. The district will breakeven in about three more years. This leaves about another seven years of SREC sales and about 17 years of "free" electricity to be generated.

HSN New Technology Emergency Generator: The bid opened that afternoon, with bids from nine contractors; several within a close range of dollars. The architect is reviewing the submitted documents and will forward the potential bidder documents to our attorney for his review and recommendation. This item will be placed on the January 27, 2015, agenda if the review has been completed. Otherwise, it will be on the February agenda.

Village Addition Plaque: The Superintendent reviewed the plans for a wall plaque for the Village Addition. Based upon past practice, the list of names to be included on the plaque was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10P.M.

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 11, 2015, 6:30 PM @ Central Office**

Topic for Next Meeting  
Review Agenda Items  
2015-2016 Budget

Future Topics:  
Impact of Recent Legislation  
Policies  
Transportation