

**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 Lawrence LoCastro	<u>Guest/Public:</u>
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May 19, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM at Central Office. Topics covered included:

Review Agenda Items. The agenda items were reviewed and supported. In past June agendas, the district has added to the capital reserve account as allowed by New Jersey regulations; the committee expects that once again the district agenda in June will include an addition of \$1.75 million to capital reserve.

2014-2015 Budget – What Worked/What Did Not. Budget Process Review Committee Recommendations were reviewed and discussed. Any board members with specific budget suggestions should communicate with the committee chair or with the board president.

Health Broker Agreement. The committee suggested that the Human Resources Director be added to the list of district contacts; but, otherwise recognized the need for such documentation with the advancing implementation of the Affordable Care Act. With this change, the administration will submit the completed document.

Solar SRECs Update. The district was able to act on the sale of 88 SRECs during the current rise in SREC pricing. This sale achieved a \$215 per SREC price as compared to recent past prices in the \$150-190 range.

First Presbyterian Church Update. The committee is sympathetic to the concerns expressed by the church about the cost of parental use of their areas. The administration has been asked to frame an agreement between the two organizations that fairly deals with the issues raised.

Advocate May Inspection. The May inspection is so recent that no numerical report is yet available. However, the post inspection meeting found Advocate responding positively to the physical conditions found in the buildings. Recent scores have been the highest in the five year history of the Aramark/district partnership.

Legal Disputes Updates. No substantive events have occurred. It is taking considerable time finalizing even the one dispute that had an outline of a settlement reached. A new court date will be set for the Nolt dispute if no settlement is soon reached. The bonding company in the Omega dispute has been unresponsive and the district's attorneys are contemplating formal action against the bonding company – a rather unusual occurrence with bonding companies.

CMS Value Engineering. Demand for construction services appears to be high this summer as seen in the results of recent bidding. The lowest responsible bidder for the Community project is higher than expected and the architect is exploring possible value engineering tactics. However, any changes must have little impact on the project's deliverables. The district is in discussion with the County Office on any needed action on the project; a possible action is the creation of a board resolution for a future agenda. With the several higher bids this bidding cycle, similar action may be needed on other projects.

Misc. The Superintendent noted that a trial BOE email will be conducted in June. The admonitions of the recent presentation by NJSBA's Jesse Adams again emphasized the usefulness of a BOE email strategy. If the trial goes well, it would be launched in July.

Currently, there is only one board meeting scheduled in September; this could make hiring somewhat ineffective at a critical personnel decision point. Either an extension of the Superintendent's summer hiring authority or scheduling additional September BOE meetings would allow the situation to be handled adequately. The committee noted that special meetings can be scheduled as in the past, especially in conjunction with board committee meetings.

The oldest group of School Development Authority projects number ten projects. The Hawk roof project from the summer of 2004 has met the last SDA request for information and a payment of \$90,910.57 is expected to be sent soon. This will bring eight of the ten projects to a paperwork completion.

Larry Shanok and Larry LoCastro departed.

Non-Affiliate Salary Review Process. The Superintendent discussed salary actions for the group.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 16, 2015, 7:30 PM @ Central Office

Topic for Next Meeting
Review Agenda Items
2015-2016 Budget

Future Topics:
Impact of Recent Legislation
Policies
Transportation
Refunding