

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



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| <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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December 14, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM at the Central Office. Topics covered included:

Review Agenda Items. The agenda items were reviewed and supported. It was noted that the "Other Capital Projects Submission" resolution is to move forward with ten projects with the architect and the State of New Jersey. By initiating the process at this time, the district maintains the flexibility of going for bids and implementing the projects next summer. To delay the process until later would likely move actual construction to the summer of 2017 instead of the summer of 2016.

There was a fair amount of discussion when reviewing portions of the Report of the Secretary. Available balance is at about the same level as a year ago. Year-to-date health benefit expenditures are up about 10% compared to a year ago. Available balance in transportation accounts covering contracted bus services are well below year ago levels; special education bus contracting is already 11% higher than last year's total spending and last year was 9.9% higher than the year before that year's experience.

Reorganization Meeting. The draft agenda for the January 5, 2016, reorganization meeting was reviewed and supported. Most of these items are part of the annual cycle for the district operations as required by statute. One change was discussed. So as to be able to hire teachers during the summer, the superintendent is granted hiring authority during the summer. In the past, the authority was granted between the last day of school and the opening of school. This creates a potential gap in which the district could be at a disadvantage at filling a last minute opening. After discussion, the Committee agreed that this period should extend to the first Board of Education meeting in September. At that time, the normal board approval process can be utilized again.

No decision was reached, but discussion was made about whether to continue the practice of alternating Board of Education meetings between the two middle schools each school year. The multipurpose room in the central office is an attractive meeting space, but having the meetings in each township continues to be appealing. Conversations on this topic are likely to come up from time to time.

Mr. Zhong arrived at 8:05 P.M.

2016-2017 Budget Progress. The Budget Process Review Committee Recommendations were reviewed as well as the 2016-2017 Budget Calendar. Earlier in the school year the Board of Education was encouraged to voice its thoughts on guidelines to the administration. The last few years has seen increased spending within the budget for technology and security. This year an increase in capital outlay is likely. Otherwise, most spending is expected to follow recent trends. Opportunities for discussion will also occur during appropriate portions of board retreats.

It was observed that even if budgeted capital outlay is raised to the \$3 million dollar level, there remains a fairly large gap between budget dollars and projects that need attention. The "high attention" project list alone presently has projects in excess of six million dollars. This suggests that adding to the capital reserve of the district will remain an important continuing action.

Unemployment Compensation Payments Update. The unemployment compensation trust fund was reviewed. The past school year claims remained at a fairly stable level. The yearend balance in the fund is also stable and at a healthy level.

Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs). The Committee supports having the periodic sale at auction the 2015 SRECs in January 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 7:30 PM @ Central Office

Topic for Next Meeting
Review Agenda Items
2016-2017 Budget

Future Topics:
Impact of Recent Legislation
Policies
Transportation