

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



<u>BOE Committee:</u> Louisa Ho (Chair) Scott Powell Yu "Taylor" Zhong Arrived at 8:26 PM	<u>Administration:</u> David Aderhold Larry Shanok Lawrence LoCastro	<u>Guest/Public:</u> Rick Cave
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July 19, 2016

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

Review Agenda Items: The agenda includes a bus route for the Notre Dame/St. Paul nonpublic route. This is success after previous failures to secure an acceptable bid. The State of New Jersey has a ceiling on acceptable nonpublic transportation costs that make securing bids difficult.

It was noted that the State of New Jersey end of year process calls for submission of the June Report of the Secretary to the County Office by August 1st.

Solar Renewable Energy Credit/Sale: On July 13th the district sold 118 SRECs for \$263.42 each; a total of \$31,083.56. The committee discussed establishing sales 2-3 times a year – perhaps in January and July.

2015-2016 Year Ending including SDA: The receipt of SDA funds associated with the Village Music Room closed out the fiscal year on a positive note. Total state dollars received were \$124,476.

Audit Status: Larry LoCastro described progress to date. The audit is on track and our public audit team returns for more work in August.

Village Addition: Cost comparisons are difficult. If a project was started years ago – costs have likely gone up. If a project did not include geothermal or LEED elements – costs will be lower. And NJ DOE education specifications drive up costs compared to non-NJ public school construction.

At the committee's request, the administration sought relevant cost comparisons. Last month the School Development Authority opened a new 137,000 square foot elementary school; its cost is \$537 per square foot. The recently announced Trenton Central High School will have 350,000 square feet and its anticipated cost per square foot is estimated at \$443. The Village addition costs out at \$349 per square foot.

Summer Construction: Larry Shanok noted that good progress has been made to date. For example, most of the roof project at High School North has been completed. On the other hand, some projects do not begin on-site activities until August; projects such as the Town Center playground or the High School South pool projects.

2017-2018 Budget: The administration and finance committees will need to pull together thoughts on this budget soon. The committee suggested developing a standard approach to non-affiliate pay practices.

Mr. Zhong arrived at 8:26 p.m.

Technology Plan 2016-2019: Rick Cave walked the committee through the draft Technology Plan (advisory document). He explained the history associated with the effort and the thinking that accompanies the plan's points. The committee covered key concepts page by page.

Some additional points that emerged included: much device training for parents is only during the day – what about evening opportunities; devices for 5th graders – might an option be developed that allows the devices to remain at school; students that move into the district past the 5th grade need a means of being effectively introduced to the 1:1 device program; when evaluating changes to digital literacy course offerings, be sure to allow for broad feedback into the process; and, can the high school device options be broadened to take into account BYOD.

Larry LoCastro left the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

District Goals: The Superintendent discussed the revisions to date. A lively discussion ensued associated with a possible fourth goal relating to communication. All Board of Education committees have reacted in diverse ways to a possible fourth goal.

Larry Shanok left the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Merit Goals: The committee discussed the merit goals.

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 p.m.

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

Topic for Next Meeting

Review Agenda Items
2016-2017 Budget
Audit

Future Topics:

Impact of Recent Legislation
Policies
Transportation
SRECs (December and June committee agendas)