

**SPAULDING HIGH SCHOOL
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**
Barre Supervisory Union – 1st Floor Conference Room
October 26, 2016 - 4:30 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

David LaCroix – Chair
Jaime Evans, Facilities Director
Penny Chamberlin, Director Central Vermont Career Center
Paul Malone
Donald McMahon, Special Services Director – arrived at 4:43 p.m.
Lisa Perrault, Business Manager
Brenda Waterhouse, Principal

GUESTS PRESENT:

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. LaCroix, called the Wednesday, October 26, 2016, Finance Committee meeting to order at 4:31 p.m., which was held at the Barre Supervisory Union First Floor Conference Room.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Approval of Minutes – September 28, 2016 Finance Committee Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Ms. Chamberlin, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the September 28, 2016 Finance Committee meeting.

4. SHS School Sign Funding Discussion

Mrs. Waterhouse began the discussion, advising that she has viewed a demonstration of a scrolling message board. The cost of the message board is approximately \$14,000. This particular model has a 5 year warranty, dims after dark, and has remote access, allowing for updates at any time. The life span of the message board is 20 to 30 years. Mr. Evans will research whether or not an extended warranty is available. Mr. LaCroix is working with a granite company to build a stand or pillars for the sign. Mr. Evans advised that wiring is already in place. The City Ordinance regarding lighted message boards is in the process of being revised and the City hopes to expedite the process and have a revised ordinance approved by February 2017. The application for erecting the sign is complete and will be submitted as soon as the ordinance is revised. SHS may need to apply for a waiver regarding the timeframe for scrolling of messages. It is believed that the ordinance will have a 20 second requirement. A 6 to 8 second timeframe is more reasonable. Though the cost of this project is below the \$15,000 threshold, multiple vendors were contacted for pricing.

Mrs. Waterhouse is requesting that the project be funded with gate receipts. Gate receipts from last year totaled \$9,800. It is believed that this year's receipts are similar or higher. **On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Ms. Chamberlin, the Committee unanimously voted to utilize gate receipt monies to fund the cost of the digital light display with granite columns, which will be installed, with City approval, in the spring of 2017, at a cost of approximately \$14,375.**

5. Scholarship Discussion

Mrs. Perreault advised that the Deep Corey scholarship fund was overspent by SHS and will need to be made whole by SHS. Recipients were to receive only interest/proceeds from the fund. Auditors have been consulted and the account will be replenished. The Committee was advised that the Deep Corey Trust specifically named the Spaulding Board to oversee the Trust. Mr. LaCroix will speak with the attorney for the Scholarship Fund Committee to determine what steps need to be taken to change management from SHS to the Scholarship Fund Committee. Ms. Chamberlin advised that the Milford/Leonard fund allows for two \$3,500 scholarships. Ms. Chamberlin would like the Scholarship Committee to research whether the scholarship amount can be increased for the 2017 awards. Mr. Malone will check the balance and inform Ms. Chamberlin regarding the Scholarship Committee's decision. The Scholarship Committee is considering increasing the scholarship amount of the Reynold's scholarships. Tom Semprebon has transferred funds from another management firm, giving the Scholarship Committee authorization to manage the money for the Semprebon scholarships.

The next meeting of the Scholarship Committee is December 6, 2016.

6. FY'17 Budget Development Discussion

The SHS and CVCC FY 17 Expenditure Reports were distributed. Pages 4 – 8 of the BSU FY 17 Budget Report were distributed (Special Education). Mrs. Perreault advised that due to contractual reasons, para-educators are still charged to SHS. The Committee

reviewed the reports, with Mrs. Perreault answering questions for specific line items. The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial for the reports to contain notations that explain why specific line items are budgeted as they are.

7. FY'18 Budget Development Discussion

A revised version of the 'Spaulding High School / CVCC Proposed FY18 BUDGET Considerations' document (dated 10/26/16) was distributed. Concern was raised over the impact of unfunded State mandates under Act 77. Proficiency Based Learning, Flexible Pathways, Personalized Learning Plans, Work Based Learning, etc., all have costs associated with them. Some of these initiatives have substantial costs. There is concern and frustration regarding State Mandates that have no funding associated with them. Mrs. Waterhouse has serious concerns that students will be expected to transport themselves to outside work sites. Additional costs associated with Work Based Learning and the Phoenix Program, are expected to total \$175,000. In the past year, approximately half of the student applicants were turned down due to insufficient staffing. Mr. Malone believes there should be push back on the State and Legislators regarding the lack of funding for required programs. Ms. Chamberlin provided a brief overview of the CVCC budget considerations, and reiterated her concern regarding the cost for Flexible Pathways, and the number of students who will want the program.

8. Other Business

None.

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on November 30, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. in the first floor conference room at the Supervisory Union.

Future Agenda Items:

First Draft of Budget

Updates from Scholarship Fund Committee

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mr. Evans, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin