

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

PLACE: ROBERT E. ZURAW, ADMIN. OFFICE BLDG. DTL DATE: 05 March 2018 TIME: 4:30 P.M.
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: Christopher Phipps, chair

I. OPENING

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Roll Call

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE	PRESENT	ABSENT	LATE
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X	
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS	X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS, chair	X		
TOTAL	2	1	

II. Discussion and possible action re: Transportation

DISCUSSION: The floor was turned over to Ms. Lisa Jones, Finance director. She stated the Board does not have the option to pick one or both of the remaining two years on the transportation contract like previously thought. Ms. Jones stated she spoke with All Star and they are giving our district the option to either keep the two remaining years on the five year contract, or settle on a new five year contract. She mentioned the discussion of going out to bid for transportation at the last Board meeting. Ms. Jones said in her opinion, this is not the wisest decision for a number of reasons. She said the 3% that our current provider is offering may increase if we allow other providers to bid. She also stated the current provider has renewed contracts with several districts surrounding us. Ms. Jones also mentioned the current provider welcomes our small district, larger franchise transportation companies do not always like to deal with small districts like Ansonia who only need 15 buses. She mentioned the current provider is located very close to Ansonia. The contract states the vehicles need to be housed within close proximity of our schools. Ms. Jones told the committee there was a few districts other than Ansonia who went out to bid and no other company wanted to service other than All Star. Mr. Phipps asked what the rate is for other districts. Ms. Jones answered there are 4 other smaller or the same size districts that have a cheaper rate with All Star than we do and approximately 12 districts that are higher than Ansonia. Mr. Phipps asked about the fuel cost. Ms. Jones said the first \$1.60 per gallon is paid by All Star and Ansonia is responsible for the rest. Mr. Phipps asked what the fuel cost has been for Ansonia. Ms. Jones did not have that figure. She also stated it is very important to know what our costs are, planning for budget is an important decision to enter a contract and know the exact dollar amount we will have to be paying. She also said she thinks since the other surrounding districts took the contract with All Star, it looks like this may be the best decision.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend to the Board to secure the five year contract at 3%, after getting information regarding the fuel rate/difference we are paying.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA				
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, chair	1	X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	2	X		
TOTAL		2	0	

III. Discussion and Possible Action re: Electricity

DISCUSSION: Ms. Jones asked Mr. Bobby Evans, director of Facilities, to join the conversation regarding the current electricity contract. She reminding the committee that the district was going to look outside the current contract that the city entered and see if a cheaper rate was available for the district. Mr. Evans explained the details with providers that were contacted and the pricing was going to be higher after taking all things into consideration. Mr. Evans suggested we see the usage through the end of the season until May and revisit the cost and savings so there can be two winters in the cycle. Ms. Jones added she would also like to look into some type of agreement with Sprague for a Gas supplier.

RECOMMENDATION: To hold off until May and revisit before making a decision on renewing our Electricity contract. At this time we will look into a Gas contract as well.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA				
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS	1	X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS, chair	2	X		
TOTAL		2	0	

IV. Discussion and possible action re: LAP insurance

DISCUSSION: Ms. Jones explained the process of the current LAP insurance bid. She stated the current contract with USN ends this fiscal year. Mr. Nimons recommends we go out for a bid with the city just like last year. Ms. Jones stated she will reach out again to Mr. Bushara and see if the city is interested.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend to the Board to go out to bid on the LAP Insurance Policy.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA				
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS	1	X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS, chair	2	X		
TOTAL		2	0	

V. Discussion re: City's 2017-2018 budget reduction

DISCUSSION: Ms. Jones reminded the committee of the city's decision to reduce the district's budget by \$600,000. She stated she has not taken action on this request. She asked committee for advice as to how to go about filing this request. She said she is looking at the impact on the budget with the cut. Mr. Nimons asked if she had spoken with our attorney. Ms. Jones said she is waiting on direction from the attorney from the state so she can report the advice to our attorney. Discussion regarding the Alliance grant began and all are hopeful the money will be coming to the district. Mr. Joe DiBacco, Assistant Superintendent added the operations will greatly suffer if the funds from the city are cut even more and the schools are in great need of certain things. Pink slips will need to be issued due to the fact of not knowing what the city will be giving. The committee also discussed the addition of security that needs to be added to the district. Superintendent Merlone said she has been having conversations with the Police Department regarding the addition of police security that is needed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn at 5:20p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA				
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS	1	X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS, chair	2	X		
TOTAL		2	0	

Respectfully submitted,



Cassie Venson
Recording Secretary
Date 2/03/2018