

## UPPER PERKIOMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

February 16, 2021

The Finance Committee Meeting was held virtually with the following committee members attending: Melanie Cunningham (chairperson), Keith McCarrick, and Judy Maginnis. Others in attendance were: Sandy Kassel, Dan Direso, Dana Hipszer, Allyn Roche, and Lyssa Busolits.

Motion by Keith McCarrick, seconded by Judy Maginnis, to approve the February 16, 2021 Finance Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

#### DISCUSSION –

##### a. Tax Collection

###### Real Estate

Information on the new tax collection package was provided. A comparison of the current cost for Real Estate collection and processing to the new services was presented. The new program provides direct access to the tax collectors which allows them to input their collection information directly. Overall the change will result in a decrease in cost to the district for Real Estate taxes.

###### Per Capita

As previously discussed the tax collectors as a group asked for relief from collecting Per Capita tax. Six of the seven collectors signed documents to allow the district to assume the collection process. After investigating further we would recommend the Board accept the deputization and approve Berkheimer as the third party collector to collect, process, and remit to the district and municipalities. After doing a cost analysis this process will be more efficient and also provide a significant cost savings to the district. One of the collectors does wish to continue to collect which is not a problem for this process. We will continue to provide information to the Per Capita file with information from tax collectors, registrations, county changes, and any other changes that come to our attention.

The committee recommended moving forward. There will be a motion on the Board agenda to approve the deputization, the new Berks County IU tax program, and to approve Berkheimer to collect the Per Capita tax file for six of the municipalities and process the seventh.

##### b. T- Mobile Hotspots

Dan Direso reviewed the districts history on the need to provide hot spots to some families. He explained the process and how the need is determined. The current program does not allow us to manage the devices. The new program with T-Mobile will be less expensive. The costs can be managed per access need and the district can manage the device for appropriate device access. We currently have 55 of the current devices out to families which will be converted to the new devices. The district will also be able to maintain a stock of devices at no cost. Cost will occur upon activation. There is no contract or activation fees if the products are not needed.

##### c. Health Care Benefits

###### SEPaST – Southeastern Pennsylvania Schools Trust

The trust is currently composed of seventeen entities which includes the IU, two vo-tech's, and fourteen districts. The trust has an executive committee of nine members of which Upper Perkiomen has always been a member. I have also been the chairperson of the Policy committee. Participation in the trust has helped to monitor and control costs by implementing and evaluating cost sharing initiatives when they are available.

The district's current plans were presented and their membership. The contribution rates for 2021-22 were provided and explained along with the rate change over the current year. The contributions that will be made by the staff, and the district were provided to give the committee an idea of the effect that they will have on the budget. After looking at the participation level in the two plans we believe we should look for a lower cost plan to add to our offerings.

Mrs, Cunningham asked for the cost of the full day kindergarten program that will be in the budget, and the plan to be able to maintain those costs moving forward. This will be part of the next meeting which will be at 6:00pm on April 6, 2021. On April 6<sup>th</sup> we will discuss the expenditures in the 2021-22 budget.

Judy Maginnis seconded by Keith McCarrick adjourned the meeting at 7:08 pm.