

LNSU/LNEMUUSD Finance & Capital Committee
Minutes of Meeting
May 24, 2021

Committee Members Present: Bart Bezio, Lisa Barry, Mark Stebbins, Laura Miller, Patty Hayford, Susan Prescott (5:46 p.m.), Angela Lamell (5:47 p.m.)

Others Present: Deb Clark, Dylan Laflam, Brian Pena

Minute Taker: Sue Trainor

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Public Comment: Chair Stebbins called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Bezio made a motion, seconded by Barry, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously. There was no public comment.

Discuss Scope of Responsibilities of Committee: Clark provided the Committee with a draft of the scope of responsibilities. They were as follows:

- Support the Board in developing and maintaining policies for the management of, in a fair and open manner, the financial affairs of the school district
- Support application of acceptable financial practices and appropriate accountability
- Support the Board in the appropriate oversight of capital investments
- Support the development of annual budgets that -
 1. Adhere to common parameters of:
 - Meeting State Education Quality Standards
 - Maintaining a safe environment conducive to learning.
 - Ensuring new program or service benefits clearly exceed costs.
 - Balance existing programs with benefits that justify costs.
 - Supporting the four essential questions of Professional Learning Communities (PLC's)
 - What do we expect students to learn?
 - How do we know when they have learned it?
 - How do we respond when they don't learn?
 - How will we respond when they already know it?

Stebbins stated it seemed to touch on the areas that the Committee needed to be concerned with. Clark noted that the responsibilities should be broad and focused on the financial responsibilities of the District. Bezio said the list was comprehensive and a good start. The Committee members agreed they would consider this a first reading and place the item on the next agenda.

Establish Meeting Schedule: Stebbins suggested meetings be held on the third Monday of the month. The group could meet at 6:00 p.m., which would allow more members to attend. Bezio made a motion, seconded by Miller, to hold the Finance and Capital Committee meetings on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business: Clark informed the Board that there were some expensive infrastructure items on the upcoming Board meeting. Much of the funding would come out of the capital reserve. The funds were available. The work would allow the District to use up the Belvidere Elementary School and the Waterville Elementary School remaining reserves. The District was bumping up against the five-year timeline tied to the merger.

Laflam stated that three of the four projects were deferred from last year. Two of the four had actually gone out to bid and then all projects were put on hold during COVID. Waterville Elementary School initially planned to have a resurfacing project. Unfortunately this project should have been done several

years ago and no contractor would bid on it in its current state, so it became a replacement project. A bid of \$135,000 from ST Paving was a competitive bid for the amount of blacktop they would be replacing. The bus loop, driveway, main parking area, staff parking area and the access road would all be paved. The dollar amount quoted was almost \$20,000 less than Laflam had anticipated.

The heat plants at Eden and Waterville had been replaced over the past six years. Belvidere's heat plant had been patched together and needed to be replaced. They had a bid of \$62,237 for this work.

Each year the biomass boiler was inspected. Typically the refractory was supposed to be replaced every ten years and this unit was now going on thirteen years. It had been red-tagged last year during the inspection. If the District wanted to run the woodchip plant, the refractory needed to be replaced. The sole bid for this work was \$67,000.

Laflam stated that the IT Office was now situated at the south end of the Tech Center and because of all the windows the office was unbearably hot. Mini-splits would work as both an AC unit and also be able to provide supplemental heat. Laflam stated he hoped to have that paid for through ESSER funds. He would then be able to replace the capital reserve money initially being used to purchase the mini splits.

Clark informed the Board that Pre-K would be going back into the Belvidere building in the upcoming school year. Stebbins asked if there were student numbers to support that and Clark said there was.

Pena stated there were two items on tonight's Board agenda. One was for GMTCC infrastructure improvements and technology. GEER and ESSER II funds would be paying for those purchases. IT also went to bid for the middle school to receive iPads. The decision to go with iPads was made with the principal, teachers and staff. The high school decided to go with Chromebooks for instruction. All relevant parties participated in the decision to go with Chromebooks.

Adjourn: Miller made a motion, seconded by Hayford, to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 p.m.