

**Robbinsdale Area Schools
FINANCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (FAC)
MINUTES FOR May 27, 2021
APPROVED-September 14, 2021**

Present	FAC Members
X	Gregg Fishbein
X	Earl Hoffman
X	Lennie Kaufman
X	Greg Kugler
X	O. Barry Rogers
	Howard Schwartz
	Terry Swanson
	School Board
X	Pam Lindberg, Treasurer
	District 281 Staff
	Dr. Stephanie Burrage, Interim Superintendent
X	Gregory Hein, Executive Director of Finance

Other Attendees: Jeff Connell (Executive Director of Facilities, Operations & Transportation), Karylanne Marchand (Business Office Manager), Virginia Verbrugge (Assistant Finance Director), Marti Voight (Assistant Superintendent) and Nichol Sutton (Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and School Board).

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM on May 27, 2021 with the Council members noted above in attendance. **This meeting was a continuation of the May 11, 2021 FAC meeting as time ran out during that meeting before covering the entire agenda, and answering all related questions.** Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic this meeting was held virtually with all members attending via the Zoom platform.

Welcome and Introductions:

Chair Gregg Fishbein opened the meeting welcoming the attendees and declared this meeting to be a continuation of the May 11, 2021 FAC Meeting.

Covered Item 1: Transportation and Bell Schedule Impact Update:

No discussion of this item occurred at this time as a Cabinet Task Force Meeting will be held on June 14, 2021 to go over this item, and the results will be reported out at a newly scheduled FAC meeting on June 24, 2021

Covered Item 2: Report Out—Cabinet Task Force/FAC meeting of May 24, 2021:

Mr. Hoffman reported that discussion occurred regarding the desire of the FAC to have the School Board provide guidance regarding the deliverables they are looking for, and that further discussion between appropriate parties will be undertaken to chart the FAC’s future direction. The bulk of the discussion revolved around a review done by the group of documents prepared by FAC groups from the Osseo and Hopkins school districts. These

documents may provide some ideas for documents our FAC may want to produce. The idea was also raised about our group meeting with FACs from other school districts. Nichol Sutton agreed to add these reports to the meeting agenda so they may be reviewed by other FAC members.

Covered Item 3: Upcoming FAC Meetings

Currently the FAC was scheduled to meet with the School Board at their work session on June 7, 2021, to present the annual FAC review of activities. That meeting has now been rescheduled for August 2, 2021. Nichol Sutton will send out appropriate invitations for the meeting on August 2. Earl Hoffman and Greg Kugler volunteered to pull together the FAC's report/presentation for that meeting. A new FAC meeting was scheduled for June 24, 2021 at 6:30pm (via Zoom) to address remaining open items, and receive updates regarding items occurring in June.

Covered Item 4: FAC Openings:

There are two FAC members whose terms are ending in June 2021 (Gregg Fishbein and Lennie Kaufman). School Board Treasurer Pam Lindberg will initiate the process for informing the community of the openings, receiving and reviewing applications, and recommending candidates for School Board approval. The FAC members whose terms are expiring are eligible to apply for reappointment.

Covered Item 5: Fiscal Year 2021 Expected Results

At the end of this fiscal year, District 281 expects to show an increase of \$1.1 Million in our unassigned fund balance. Greg Hein indicated that he was requesting \$500,000 of CARES funding be allocated to fiscal year 2021.

Covered Item 6: Fiscal Year 2022 Budget:

Greg Hein indicated he had presented the updated budget earlier this week to the School Board for their review. The budget shows an increase in the District's unassigned fund balance of \$1.1 Million. This has been the target throughout the budget process.

Questions during this discussion centered around:

--**The Food Service Fund Deficit:** This amount will not increase during FY 2022 from its current level (approximately \$250,000) as the Federal Government will be once again paying for meals through its COVID-related funding (at a rate slightly higher than what we would actually charge students for lunches). However, it was pointed out that once the Federal Government stops paying District 281 for meals, the growing debt will continue unless something is done to address the underlying issue.

--**The Impact of families not filling out Free and Reduced Meal Paperwork.** District 281 is utilizing USDA waivers that provide all students with no cost breakfast and lunch. However, without the incentive of free meals, families may not fill out the Educational Benefits Application. Although not affecting meals for eligible students, not receiving this paperwork will have a negative affect on Compensatory and Title 1 revenue. This amount could approximate \$8,000 per child that is eligible but lacks paperwork. The District is allocating resources to follow up on this issue with the appropriate families.

--**Costs Related to Pathways.** District 281 does not anticipate much, if any, marginal cost. Any additional transportation expense will be reimbursed by the State of Minnesota.

--**Cuts to Special Education Expenses.** The budget indicated a reduction of \$900,000 in special education expense, and a question was raised regarding the places where expenses would be cut. A discussion outlining the proposed areas occurred.

Covered Item 7: “Parking Lot” Items

It was decided the two “Parking Lot” items would be discussed at the added June 24 meeting:

--Proposed Changes to FAC Bylaws to accommodate 2 meetings with the School Board annually (up from the current one meeting).

--Discussion regarding a potential communication from the FAC to the public regarding the level of performance of the District 281 Finance Group.

Covered Item 8: Adjournment

After a proper motion was made and seconded to adjourn our meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 pm.

Minutes submitted by Lennie Kaufman