

**Robbinsdale Area Schools
FINANCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (FAC)
MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 9, 2021
Approved January 11, 2022**

Present	FAC Members
X	Walter Gray
	Earl Hoffman
X	Lennie Kaufman
X	Greg Kugler
	O. Barry Rogers
X	Howard Schwartz
X	Terry Swanson
	School Board
X	John Vento, Treasurer
	District 281 Staff
X	David Engstrom Superintendent
X	Ukee Dozier, Executive Director of Finance

Other Attendees:

Virginia Verbrugge (Assistant Finance Director), Beth Tomlinson (Controller) and Kelly Smith (Baker Tilly)

The meeting was called to order at 06:30 p.m. on November 9, 2021 with the Council members noted above in attendance.

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Introductions:

Chair Lennie Kaufman opened the meeting welcoming the attendees.

Agenda Item 2: Acceptance of Agenda:

The agenda had been distributed to the members prior to the meeting. A motion was properly made and seconded to accept the distributed Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3: Approve the September 14, 2021 FAC Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Gray brought up that an item he commented on that was included in the meeting minutes wasn't accurate. Mr. Kaufman asked Mr. Gray to send him the correct information so that this could be corrected.

Agenda Item 4: OPEB Update – Ukee Dozier:

Mr. Dozier updated the group on the current numbers. Discussion ensued regarding what would happen if there were to be a surplus after all obligations were fulfilled. Mr. Vento gave a brief history of OPEB for the new members. Another discussion was had as to the rate of return and that it seemed high. Mr. Vento asked Mr. Kugler to check into this and report back to the group.

Agenda Item 5: ESSER Update – Ukee Dozier:

Mr. Dozier presented a PowerPoint that outlined the ESSER funds that the district has been allocated. Robbinsdale has received \$39 million in the 3 packages. Discussion was had as to what has been spent so far, and how the district will ensure that all funds will be spent. Mr. Dozier explained the process finance is using for coding expenditures and how we are allocating the new funds. It was asked if by using the ESSER funds, does that free up other funding sources and Mr. Dozier explained that these funds are short term and need to be for expanded services beyond what we spend now. Also discussed was the understanding that caution was needed regarding the funding of ongoing expenses with “one-time money”. A short discussion continued regarding the long-term need for mental health support and what post-COVID would look like.

Agenda Item 6: Enrollment Projections – Ukee Dozier:

Mr. Dozier presented a spreadsheet with information surrounding enrollment projections. He welcomed the Council to provide input for this process, mainly around a 3-year projection for kindergarten. Mr. Gray suggested pulling historical data to aid in this process. Discussion was had as to reasons why families choose to come into the district and also leave the district. Mr. Kaufman suggested this could be a good use of these one-time funds to do some research/surveys on this topic. Further discussion was had as to other enrollment choices (charter schools, open enrollment etc.)

Agenda Items 7 & 8: Future Meetings / FAC Timeline:

The next FAC meeting is January 11th. Mr. Dozier rescheduled the March 15th meeting to March 29, 2022.

Agenda Item 9: Other Items Discussed:

Mr. Schwartz would like to discuss open enrolled students to the district and the costs involved (special needs). In addition, he would like to discuss at greater length the geographic areas of the District where we are losing students to other districts, schools, etc.

Mr. Kaufman suggested we discuss enrollment again, perhaps at the next FAC meeting. He also brought up adding another meeting in December. Mr. Dozier clarified that this could wait until the January 11th meeting and that no additional meetings were needed at this time.

Mr. Gray brought up that the Council should offer the opportunity to have people from outside the Council a chance to ask questions or be involved on the agenda if they request.

Agenda Item 10: Adjournment:

After a proper motion was made and seconded to adjourn, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Beth Tomlinson