



Board of School Directors Committee Meetings Minutes Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Generated by Renai Cardillo on Thursday, June 7, 2018

Members present: Nicholas Braccio, William Brong, Janet Flisak, Matt Holliday, Ken Keith, Thomas Kwiatkowski, Stephen Nelson, Donna Scheuren

Members absent: Scott Jelinski

Others present: Lisa Ball, Frank Ball, Sharon Fuhrman, Frank Gallagher, Christopher Hey, Raymond Kase, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, and William Stone.

1. Education-Personnel Committee

1.1 Approve First Reading of New Course - Literature of Suspense and Horror

Mr. Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Mr. Kwiatkowski and Dr. Gallagher commented that this course was presented at Curriculum Council and it was originally introduced in the fall as a part of the Program of Studies (under a different title). Dr. Kennedy-Reilly commented on the high level of student interest in the course.

Mr. Brong asked about costs associated with the course and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly responded that because the course focuses on many of the classics which the high school already owns, it will require a minimal purchase of new books.

The Committee agreed to move forward for a second reading.

1.2 Approve Interim Benchmarking System: MAP - Measure of Academic Progress

Dr. Gallagher noted that the District has been researching a standards-based benchmarking tool, and the Measuring Academic Progress (MAP) Suite software program will meet this need. Dr. Gallagher noted that grant money will be used to purchase the software.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly commented that MAP is a very comprehensive and robust system. It supports work on student achievement in grades across K-12, math, language arts and science and provides online testing with focus levels that will align to Pennsylvania Common Core standards, PSSA and SAT. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly noted that upon full implementation the program will provide measurable value to students, teachers and parents. Reports will document how many times a student has taken a test, track performance and make projections about what students are ready to learn. The results will also record achievement student strengths and weaknesses individually, by class and by school.

A member of the public asked who developed the software and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly responded that it has been developed by NWEA, a non-profit research company supporting education.

Board members asked several questions about the availability of comparative data for local, county and state results. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly replied that the software uses its own metrics but comparative results are available.

Mr. Brong asked about teacher response to the use of the software and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly said there have been positive responses thus far. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly discussed the MAP calendar feature which will integrate into existing testing schedules and will be extremely helpful to teachers. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly answered questions regarding the cost of the software (approximately \$9 per student). This cost has been built into the Ready To Learn Grant and Title II funds. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly also noted that several Montgomery County School Districts are already successfully using the software. Mr. Nelson commented on what appears to be a very vigorous reporting tool and Mr. Kwiatkowski liked the immediacy of results available to teacher and principals.

Dr. Gallagher noted that other beachmarking software will be phased out, as MAP Growth will replace it.

The Committee agreed to move forward for Board action.

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2. Finance Committee

2.1 2018-2019 Final Budget Discussion

Mrs. Scheuren called the Finance Committee Meeting to order at 7:21 p.m.

Mr. Stone recommended moving the final budget to the June 21 meeting for a vote. Mr. Stone said that the budget includes a 2.4% real estate tax increase, and a \$75K deficit. The result is a balanced budget.

Dr. Gallagher commented on the effort surrounding the budget development process highlighting that it includes the addition of a school police officer and re-purposing a teacher as a High School guidance counselor.

Mr. Stone commented on revenue action plans for next year that include an increase in facilities rental fees, additional school sponsorships, transcript fees for alumni and other alternative funding. Mr. Stone noted that his department will continue to monitor interim real estate taxes, earned income tax, transfer taxes and delinquent taxes.

Dr. Gallagher noted that the Pennsylvania state budget discussion remains quiet and there are no indications that education funding will be negatively impacted. Dr. Gallagher also noted that it appears as if the state budget may be completed by June 30, 2018. Federal fund allocations have not been released.

Mr. Stone noted that the current expenditure budget has no reduction to educational programs but there is limited contingency for unanticipated changes. He reviewed the areas of concern for next year including substitute budgets, legal services, medical fund, charter school tuition and special education.

Mrs. Scheuren asked about the backlog in the medical account and Mr. Stone responded that the third party administrator changed its software program resulting in a lag of claim processing. A member of the public inquired about the review of the medical plan and Dr. Hey responded that the plan is examined upon the expiration of the professional staff collective bargaining agreement.

A discussion occurred regarding special transportation costs and the utilization of T.S.I. instead of more costly options.

The Board discussed the budget process and Mr. Holliday praised the Administration for the work done to close the budget gap. Mr. Holliday also expressed concern about the current fund balance and his preference to maintain its minimum. Mr. Keith commented on changes to the budget process that would allow for better forecasting in the future. Mr. Nelson commented that as a first year board member he has learned a lot about the budget process and would like to learn about the leading indicators going forward.

Mr. Kwiatkowski expressed concern about the balance in the capital fund upon the completion of summer projects. He also commented on the sale of the Hilltown property and its proceeds. Mr. Kwiatkowski also inquired about any programs that may have been put on hold, both educational and operational. Dr. Gallagher responded that there has been some slow down in the replacement of Chromebooks and Smart Boards. Mr. Kase commented that district internet services will be negotiated upon the end of the current contract and savings are expected.

Mr. Brong asked about projections of the budget in future years. Dr. Gallagher noted that the debt service will go away in eight years which will significantly improve the budget, and that the revisions made to the PSERS plan will also positively affect the budget. Mrs. Scheuren commented on the powerful impact to continue dialogue with legislators for charter and cyber school funding reform.

Mrs. Scheuren expressed concern of approving a final budget on June 21 if the State has not approved its budget. Dr. Gallagher recommended moving forward for Board Action and Mr. Stone noted that the School Code may limit the District's ability to postpone due to advertising requirements. A lengthy discussion ensued about when to approve the budget, which resulted in the agreement to move the budget forward for action, with a stipulation that the action date could be changed if needed.

Mrs. Scheuren adjourned the Finance Committee Meeting at 8:58 P.M.

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3. Operations Committee

3.1 EMC-Paving, CM Services Discussion

Mr. Brong called the Operations Committee Meeting to order at 9:04 P.M.

Mr. Stone elaborated that the two areas of paving are being recommended at this time in an effort to avoid future maintenance expense. The Administration is recommending a change order in the amount of \$55,555.76 for additional paving at E.M.C. Mr. Nelson asked about the age of current driveway and Mr. Ball responded that the parking lot and driveway paving are estimated to be approximately 20 years old. Messrs. Ball and Stone discussed the limited testing done to determine if the work was necessary.

Mrs. Scheuren asked about the costs of the paving project and Mr. Nelson commented that the pricing was within his expectations.

The Committee agreed to move forward and prepare a change order for the recommended additional paving work.

Dr. Gallagher noted that administration is recommending the approval of an on-site supervisor to remain for the duration of the project, which was extended two months due to an amendment to the construction schedule. The anticipated cost is \$40,000 for two months. Mr. Stone emphasized the importance of maintaining a separation of construction and education as the project comes to completion during the school year. Mr. Stone noted that the monthly costs associated with on-site supervision could be negotiated to a weekly rate if so desired.

Mr. Nelson and Mrs. Scheuren inquired further about the cost of the services. A discussion occurred about the incentive to complete the project in a timely fashion if additional site supervision is approved.

The Committee requested that an inquiry be made to Reynolds Construction that a site supervisor be provided at no cost.

3.2 Proposed Transportation Changes for 2018-19

Dr. Gallagher noted that the proposed transportation changes would be completed during the summer months as bus routing is created based on actual student enrollment. The proposal may include more walkers, fewer vehicles on the road, the consolidation of routes and the elimination of some bus stops. There will also be the review of creating bus routes that combine private and public students, and using transfer points.

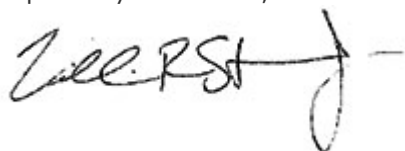
Mr. Stone noted that the Operations Department is investigating the purchase of new bus routing software that will assist in creating efficient routes and bus stops. The software purchase would be made one year in advance of its actual implementation.

Dr. Gallagher commented that an updated presentation on transportation would occur at the July Operations Committee Meeting. Mr. Holliday inquired about the current walking zone for students, and Mr. Kwiatkowski recommended an early notification to parents of any changes in busing.

Mrs. Scheuren and Mrs. Flisak commented favorably on the proposed changes of transportation.

Mr. Brong adjourned the Operations Meeting at 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



William R. Stone
Board Secretary