



Board of School Directors Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 13, 2019

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

Others present: Frank Ball, Lisa Ball, Frank T. Gallagher, Christopher Hey, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, Brian Pawling, Gina Pardovich and Megan Zweiback

1. Education-Personnel Committee

Mr. Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

1.1 Update on North Montco Technical Career Center Program

Mr. Kwiatkowski and Dr. Gallagher introduced Gina Pardovich, the Executive Director of the North Montco Technical Career Center (NMTCC). Dr. Gallagher noted his position as the Superintendent of Record for the five area sending schools that participate in the NMTCC program. Mr. Kwiatkowski asked Mrs. Pardovich to give an overview of the current objectives of the program and how technical career positions fit into curriculum.

Mrs. Pardovich spoke about the desire to re-brand the image of career tech education and the goal to promote student achievement and success. Mrs. Pardovich noted the use of social media to communicate student work out to the community. Mrs. Pardovich also spoke about the collaborative partnership that NMTCC has developed for community service between MANNA on Main Street and the NMTCC culinary department.

Mrs. Pardovich spoke about the plan to upgrade technology in an effort to engage software communication to the sending school districts. An upgrade in technology would include a proposal for "e" enrollment, as well as the establishment of a portal for use by parents and students.

Mrs. Pardovich spoke about the current enrollment of the school, noting that most programs are full and some even have wait-lists. An example of success is the expansion of the Advanced Technology - Allied Health program, from one session to two sessions. This particular course includes AP and Honor students from all five districts. The current Allied Health is a program working in conjunction with Jefferson Hospital (Lansdale Hospital). Another popular program is Mechatronics, which is a program focused on engineering technology, where student workers design, troubleshoot, maintain and repair sophisticated automated equipment through a systems approach. Mrs. Pardovich noted the proposed expansion of the program to include the development of a materials handling career pathway.

Future goals of the program include a summit for all sending schools to establish revised guidance and discipline actions. In addition, discussion is already under way to coordinate individual senior projects with NMTCC student projects.

Mr. Kwiatkowski praised the working partnerships, discipline and re-branding of the program.

A brief discussion occurred about the introduction of technical career education to students, including the possibilities of middle school visits and additional open house opportunities.

Several members of the Board commended Mrs. Pardovich for the presentation and suggested that the NMTCC program be highlighted as a career pathway.

Mrs. Scheuren asked about the district costs associated with the NMTCC and Dr. Gallagher commented that the District enrollment is going down and the numbers are reflective of a 5-year rolling average.

Mrs. Scheuren inquired about grant opportunities for the NMTCC and Dr. Gallagher responded that there has been some success in the past.

Mr. Brong noted that he is a technical school graduate and cited several examples of current career positions that require technical education. Mr. Brong also commented on the current need for skilled technical career employees in the job market.

Suzanne Stepanek, a resident of Schwenksville, noted interest in the NMTCC program and expressed favor about the opportunities being made available to females.

Dr. Gallagher mentioned the possibility of a Board tour in the fall.

Mr. Kwaitkowski adjourned the meeting at 7:23 P.M.

2. Finance Committee

Mrs. Scheuren called the Finance meeting to order at 7:25 P.M.

2.1 Approve 2018-2019 Budget Transfers

Dr. Gallagher noted the annual motion to approve budget transfers. Mr. Pawling announced the transfers for the 19-20 school year to assure there are no budget deficits in any account.

The Board agreed to move forward for Board Action on March 28, 2019.

2.2 Budget Update

Dr. Gallagher commented that quite a bit of progress had been made on budget preparation. Mr. Pawling presented a slide showing the Preliminary Budget reflecting an initial deficit of \$6.2M. Upon the review and explanation of revenue adjustments that included State subsidies, interest revenue, and E-rate revenue and expenditure adjustments due to staff retirements, a reduction of tuition at NMTCC, a reduction in the MCIU service agreement, and reductions to the Athletic Department, an adjusted budget deficit was revised to \$3.9M.

Mr. Pawling noted that the current revenue projection includes a proposed 2.3% increase to the millage rate for real estate taxes. Mr. Pawling noted that as the budget continues to be developed, other potential adjustments will include the purchasing of technology with current year funds, the removal of an MCIU cost plan payment, the refining of salary and benefits based on proposed staffing levels and the review of healthcare costs.

Mr. Pawling noted the next steps of budget preparation will include reviewing department budgets with administrators and the review of internal service fund and medical expenditures projections. In addition, end of year projections will be made and if funds are available for purchases that can be removed from the 19-20 budget. Mr. Pawling stated that the next budget update would be given at the April 10, 2019 Finance Committee Meeting.

Mrs. Scheuren thanked Mr. Pawling for his presentation and inquired about the sweeping of accounts. Ms. Ball responded that a daily sweep is occurring, and we are seeing the benefits.

Mrs. Scheuren also asked if Independence Administrators would be returning and Dr. Hey confirmed that they would be in attendance at the April Committee Meeting. Dr. Gallagher noted that Mr. Pawling is also exploring any possibilities for refinancing of debt service.

A discussion occurred that included dialogue regarding the Fair Funding formula, and grant opportunities that may be available to the District. Dr. Gallagher noted that contract negotiations are still under way with Transportation Services Inc.

Mr. Keith praised Mr. Pawling's presentation and stated the Board's desire to balance the budget without any educational cuts.

Mrs. Scheuren adjourned the Finance Committee Meeting at 8:00 P.M.

3. Operations Committee

Mr. Brong called the Operations Committee to order at 8:02 P.M.

3.1 Review Draft Request for Construction Cost Proposals - HS Stadium Turf and Running Track

Dr. Gallagher reminded the Board that in December, consultant ELA Sport was approved to begin the process to create a Request For Proposal (RFP), in order to solicit bids for the replacement of the high school stadium turf and running track surface renovations.

Mr. Ball, Supervisor of Operations, introduced Mr. Hugh Cadzow of ELA Sport. Mr. Cadzow presented information relative to the proposed project. A discussion occurred about the current condition of the synthetic field and its stone base. Comments were expressed by several Board members concerning the existing drainage under the turf.

Mrs. Flisak inquired about the timeline of the project and its impact on the summer and fall athletic seasons. Mr. Ball explained that the RFP response time should be fairly quick, allowing the Board time to review and award in a timely fashion. Dr. Gallagher noted that the timeline could be adjusted to accommodate existing events and schedules.

Mr. Kwiatkowski asked for additional analysis on the existing field and sub base prior to the issuance of the RFP. Hearing the concerns from Board members, Mr. Brong suggested an additional inspection of the turf field and sub base and upon the completion of the inspection, the Board could reevaluate the project. Mr. Brong also suggested that the solicitation for the RFP be moved forward for Board action. In the event that the inspection report is favorable, the RFP could go out and the project could remain on a proposed schedule.

Schwenksville resident Suzanne Stepanek commented that she believes the school district should wait and gather additional information before proceeding.

Mrs. Scheuren reiterated concern that the RFP not be issued until the inspection was completed. Mr. Braccio expressed concern about long-term implications to delaying the project. Mr. Brong commented that delaying the replacement of the turf field could ultimately impact use of the turf field by community groups.

The Board agreed to move the construction proposal forward to Board Action, pending the results of a field inspection.

Mr. Brong adjourned the Operations Committee at 9:03 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian R. Pawling
Board Secretary