



Board of School Directors Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Generated by Renai Cardillo on Tuesday, February 15, 2022

Members present: Courtney Barbieri, Nick Braccio, Janet Flisak, Ken Keith, Tom Kwiatkowski, Andrew Landis, Stephen M. Nelson, Donna Scheuren

Members absent: Bill Brong

Others present: Lisa Ball, Frank Ball, Henry Franz, Frank Gallagher, Kevin Godshall, Christopher Hey, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, Damion Spahr, Michael Taylor, Megan Zweiback,

1. Education-Personnel Committee

1.1 Curriculum Presentation - Full Day Kindergarten

Mrs. Barbieri called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Dr. Gallagher noted that a lot of preparation and planning has occurred leading up toward the implementation of full-day kindergarten. Dr. Gallagher introduced Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Technology Dr. Katie Kennedy-Reilly who shared a presentation outlining the full day program. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly shared a slide that depicted some of the resources that would be included in the full day kindergarten program: *Responsive Classroom, Foundations, Second Step, Everyday Mathematics*, and others, guided by PDE standards.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly shared key components of the full day program, noting its emphasis on playful learning and play-based curriculum that allows children time to play - in both directed and non-directed ways. Working in groups to foster language skills, students will develop the crucial skills necessary for the growth of the whole child. Examples of collaboration and intentional play were demonstrated.

A video highlighting purposeful play in an existing kindergarten classroom was shared. It showcased social and joyful interactions guided by students, and initiated by the teacher. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly noted that some kindergarten classrooms are already using these components in a half-day environment and the district is very excited about incorporating its instructional play model into full day kindergarten.

Dr. Gallagher reiterated the benefit of a full day kindergarten program on the next generation of students in the community.

Committee and Board members all commented positively on the video, expressing anticipation of the full day program. Mr. Braccio noted that he recently visited a kindergarten class and observed students learning and having fun. He stated that a full day program will certainly be a benefit.

Mr. Nelson noted that the new program will cost money, but it will certainly be money well spent.

Mrs. Barbieri adjourned the Education - Personnel meeting at 6:47 P.M.

Dr. Gallagher noted that there would be a shift in the original order of the committee meetings and a brief recess was announced.

2. Operations Committee

2.1 Franconia Elementary and Indian Valley Middle School Projects Update

Mr. Braccio called the Operations Committee meeting to order at 6:54 P.M.

Mr. Braccio noted that the agenda item is seeking board acknowledgement to move forward on the solicitation of bids for the proposed Franconia Elementary and Indian Valley Middle School projects.

Dr. Gallagher noted that a considerable amount of time has been spent by school administration and project architects to develop plans for competitive bids.

Supervisor of Operations Mr. Ball reiterated that a lot of time has been put in to make the projects clean and ready for bidding. Mr. Ball also noted that Mr. Godshall of GKO Architects has worked with local townships for initial approvals, keeping the projects on track. Mr. Godshall stated that all plans had been coordinated with school principals to limit disruptions to instruction.

Mr. Godshall reviewed a slide presentation outlining the timeline of the Franconia Elementary School project indicating that subcontractor prices would be received by February 22nd and upon review, a presentation of those results would be made at the March 9 and March 24 Board meetings.

Mr. Godshall indicated that upon the award of the bids, limited work would occur during the Summer of 2022, and a tentative completion of the project would be in late 2023 or early 2024. Mr. Godshall indicated that his firm and the members of the Operations Committee would continue to study the impact of inflation on a busy bidding market. He also stated that the team is developing a list of items that could be bid as a specific scope of work only. Mr. Godshall also noted awareness on long lead time and availability of some select hardware items.

Mr. Godshall stated that the Indian Valley Middle School project would be a hybrid public bid and a Guaranteed Energy Savings Act (GESA) project. He noted that the current timeline for consideration of this work is scheduled for April Board meetings.

Mr. Damion Spahr of SitelogIQ Energy Services was also in attendance and spoke about the qualifying of competitive bids as the project is being promoted as a longer-lasting project. He noted that the timing is intentionally phased to attract bidders and create competition.

Mr. Spahr also discussed lead time consideration and anticipated cost increases. A brief discussion occurred about the two projects and their impact on instructional time and space. Mr. Godshall stated that everyone is acutely aware of these concerns and considerations are being built into the bid specs. Mr. Keith asked about the possibility of items being bid as alternates on each project and Mr. Godshall indicated that this is likely to occur. Mr. Nelson expressed concerns about unsuitable soils and labor availability and strongly encouraged that asphalt repairs be separated out (as alternates) as those items will occur at the end of the projects and costs are difficult to estimate at this time.

Mr. Kwiatkowski inquired about the need for additional furniture in each of the renovations and Dr. Gallagher indicated that it is not expected to be a large amount of furniture.

Mr. Taylor reiterated that the Administration is asking the Board to take action on approving the administration to advertise and solicit bids for General Contracting and Sitework for the addition and related items for Indian Valley Middle School, at the February 24th meeting.

Mr. Braccio adjourned the Operations Committee Meeting at 7:49 P.M.

There was a short recess in meetings.

3. Finance Committee

3.1 2022-23 Budget Update

Mrs. Scheuren called the Finance Committee Meeting to order at 7:55 P.M.

Mr. Taylor presented an update on the budget preparation process. It included a timeline of Finance Committee Meetings through June 1 and anticipated approval of the Final Budget at the June 16, 2022 meeting. Mr. Taylor noted that department budgets and recommended adjustments would be discussed at upcoming meetings.

A review of the current revenues, expenditures and projections for preliminary budget were reviewed. A deficit of \$8.3M currently exists as work continues to progress to reduce the deficit. Mr. Taylor noted the personnel budget driver; which includes needed professional and support staff for full day kindergarten. Mr. Taylor also noted that savings would be sought through retirements and attrition. He also noted the expiration of some compensation agreements.

Mr. Taylor reviewed a slide outlining the Governor's Proposed Budget for the Commonwealth. He noted that it was a fairly ambitious budget, with a focus on education. Mr. Taylor reviewed proposed increases to Basic and Special Education, and a flat funded proposal to Ready to Learn.

The Governors proposed budget also included Charter School reform which could result in significant savings to school districts. The proposal, similar to last year, applies tiered Special Education Funding Formula to all charters to better align with actual costs of providing services to special education students. The State projects a net result could be a savings to the school district of \$367K.

Mr. Taylor also reviewed the November 2021 Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law indicating that it is being reviewed for potential funding for the district. Potential funding could include electric vehicles, buses, and clean energy and power.

Finance Committee Chairperson Mrs. Schueren, thanked Mr. Taylor for the presentation and questioned the Fair Funding Formula as it relates to charter schools and enrollment. Mr. Taylor responded that there has not been any active discussion about combining low-enrollment districts.

Mr. Kwiatkowski expressed favor of the increase to Basic Education Funding and Mr. Taylor, while in agreement cautioned that the school district needs to look at sustainable funding and not automatically bank on proposed budgeted amounts.

3.2 Approve Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Budget

Mr. Taylor noted the annual approval of the MCIU membership budgets. It is a shared budget for all of the school districts it serves. Mr. Taylor noted that there are three components that make up their budget; Office of Professional Learning, Office of Community and Government Relations, and Office of Technology Services.

Mrs. Scheuren noted that the legal support and advocacy provided by the Intermediate Unit is valuable and asked if Mrs. Zweiback or Dr. Kennedy-Reilly had other examples of services utilized by the district. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reinforced the MCIU support for digital applications, consortium prices and internet services. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly also noted that county-wide collaboration often facilitated by the I.U. is very beneficial.

The Committee agreed to move forward for board action on February 24th.

Mrs. Scheuren adjourned the Finance Committee at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael Taylor, C.P.A.
Board Secretary / Director of Business Affairs