

In attendance were Chair George Bauer, Janet Morgan, Maryanne Van Aken, and Charles Cosgriff; Jody Goeler, Wayne McAllister, Paul Ciotti, Mike Devine, Deb DeSorbo, and BoE clerk Deb Carlton

1. RFQ/RFPs – Mr. McAllister reported that Mr. Mansur is retiring; therefore, the district will need a new person to do annual updates for pensions actuarial and he wants to put this out to bid. This year's will be his final audit. He has a basic template for the RFQ.

We are currently with Webster Bank for pension investments and Mr. McAllister offered the latest quarterly report, adding it will be prudent to perform an RFQ for this, too. Webster also does our bonding. He will have them come to the next meeting to explain whether they can offer lower fees and better products.

For health insurance, he noted this is a large part of the budget; it wouldn't hurt to see what's out there. Mr. Bauer asked for update of service received by teachers and wants to be sure of competitive rates and services. Asked about our agent, Mr. McAllister said he has done what he said he would, but might be able to do even better. There was discussion around piggybacking health insurance with the district towns.

Regarding food services, Mr. McAllister met with Peter Brooks, who has decided not to retire, about the breakfast program, and the committee reviewed year-to-date lunch program figures and net losses. Asked how the idea for breakfast program came about, he said we were solicited by End Hunger Now and that grant money is available so long as our percentage of free/reduced participants is high enough, which it may be next year. He will study the feasibility and potential profitability of the program.

3. Technology lease and update – Mr. Ciotti reported: Lease total was \$250,000 and, as of today, we have consumed \$158,974.96 leaving a balance of \$91,025.04

The largest purchases were for Valley Communications for the purchase and installation of Interactive Whiteboards throughout the 4 schools at \$44,831.13, TBNG Consulting for the wireless project at Woodbury Middle School, and wiring, installation and configuration of wireless access points for \$67,552.73.

The remaining monies will be spent on mobile cart technologies, miscellaneous needs for the schools, such as Chromebook, Laptop, and/or iPad Carts, including other technologies. Asked about wireless at the elementary schools, he said access points are distributed between the 2 schools. Also, phones are here and will be installed soon. He offered a visual representation of the condition computers are found in after summer cleaning, which Ms. Morgan found unacceptable, and explained the time it takes to restore them to functioning condition. He also showed numbers of service requests, noting we are already at 50% of last year's total only 1½ months into the school year. Mr. Bauer felt if we are embracing technology, we will also need to support and fund it. Mr. Ciotti felt a part time, 2-3 days a week, tech would get him over the hump. Mr. Bauer wants to use our resources properly and asked that he continue to update his committee on data collection for budget time, and to work on a job description.

8. Finance Info for the Public – district website "dashboard" – Mr. Bauer envisions active, updatable pie charts on the district's financials, not extremely detailed but a snapshot of the budget, and asked Mr. Ciotti about creating a page that can be linked. He asked committee members to email him as to what they'd like to see there.

Mr. Ciotti was also asked about whether BoE meetings can be streamed on computer and he said that is possible. He reminded the board that meetings are viewable as rebroadcasts on the website, at video.ctreg14.org. It was suggested that they be located on the BoE pull down menu, so they are easier to find. It was suggested that, on the page already containing agendas and minutes, that a third column be added with link to that meeting's video.

2. PTO Insurance – Mr. McAllister wants to be sure all groups are carrying their own insurance and suggested all groups meet to hear a presentation because he wants them to have appropriate coverage to protect themselves. The risk management perspective should be explained by the provider. Our liability policy covers anyone in the schools, but the groups should carry their own, as well. Ms. Van Aken said this is not new; the former administration insisted all groups have insurance, or allow the school to handle their funds and assume liability.
4. 2014-15 Budget timeline – Mr. McAllister provided a draft budget timeline for the committee's review. The committee reviewed a few dates and expressed the desire to include the "cost center" approach that was added in the previous year's budget information preparation.
5. Capital reserve surplus – Mr. McAllister reviewed surplus numbers, and Mr. Bauer will bring a recommendation to the Board for transfer of the \$176,167.94 surplus.
6. Review of current 2013-14 budget – Mr. McAllister offered year-to-date figures with the cost center cover sheet Mr. Bauer had requested. The budget presentation will also be by cost center. Attorney Sommaruga will break out the costs of the 2 lawsuits for the public asking for that information. Mr. Bauer had questions about line item 44, and Mr. McAllister explained the need to distinguish between public/private.
7. Review of budget transfers –Mr. McAllister reviewed adjustments and was asked about the \$95,000 transfer, which was erroneously charged to NHS instead of Special Services.

Considerable discussion followed from Mr. Devine's assertion that, because the state budget was not put together at budget time, the extra revenue received for the transportation grant and the agriscience program was not factored into the cost to towns and, therefore, an adjustment needs to be made and money sent back to the towns. Mr. McAllister explained that the agriscience grant must supplement the program and cannot offset the budget; it's money in/money out. Mr. Devine was further concerned about the possibility of showing a net loss in the agriscience program.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Bauer

George Bauer, Chair