

Lehigh Area School District
Lehigh, Pennsylvania
Finance Committee Meeting
Monday May 10, 2016

Agenda

Present

☐ Andy Yenser	Present
☐ Richard Beltz	
☐ Byron Arner	Present
☐ Gloria Bowman	Present
☐ Steve Holland	Present
☐ Brian D. Feick	Present
☐ Tina Holmes	
☐ Jonathan Cleaver	

Recording Secretary- Rebecca Mastroddi Present

Meeting Started immediately following Building and Grounds 7:18 p.m.

George's Transportation Daily Run Bills for Approval (enclosure)

Review of the transportation bill. All committee members agreed to pay.

- Mr. Yenser: Yes Mr. Arner: Yes

2016-2017 Budget:

Mr. Yenser asked Mr. Feick to review the budget and hand-outs received.

- Mr. Feick explained that he is asking for the proposed final budget to be placed on the May Board Agenda in order to meet all required deadlines.
- This is a 0% tax increase budget for the 2016-2017 school year. Mr. Feick stated he has been very conservative on the revenues due to the fact that we really do not know what the state will actually be granting the schools. Mr. Feick stated it is better to be safe and wait on the actual.

- Mr. Yenser asked if the PSERS has plateaued. Looking at the hand-outs provided it appears to be. Mr. Feick responded it should only increase a small amount from now as next year was projected to be the year it plateaued.
- Ms. Bowman commented on the Budget at a glance and the ease of understanding. Mr. Feick responded that Ms. Holmes had prepared that and he would pass along the compliment from the Finance Committee.
- Mr. Yenser stated that he is very happy with the amount of information being provided and the growth that has taken place since 2009. The committee also stated they like the new finance system and the format of the reports. It gives more detail. Mr. Feick stated as we build more history in the CSIU Program they will be able to see a month to month as well as a year and month to year and month.
- Mr. Feick asked the Committee if they would like the budget at a glance and the Budget preparation hand-out to be available to the public at the May 23, 2016 Board meeting. The committee members and the board members in attendance all agreed this should be out and available. This will be included with the agenda upon entering the meeting. All in attendance agreed transparency is the key and would like to make as much financial information available to the public. They commended Mr. Feick for that suggestion.

Mr. Yenser: Yes Mr. Arner: Yes the proposed final will be placed on the agenda and the hand-outs will accompany the agenda.

- Mr. Yenser asked Mr. Feick to work on a five year projection. Mr. Feick stated that he would have it out to the committee by tomorrow afternoon (May 10, 2016).
- Mr. Feick discussed the Plan Con webinar that he and Mr. Cleaver participated in and explained that they are projecting that by the end of the 16-17 year any school who has applied and passed the part F will be receiving funds. Depending on the type of debt held, it will decide the way the state refunds the monies due. Mr. Feick explained the payments must be used to pay down the debt service and a major factor will be if bonds are callable. If not then it is placed into a sinking fund and the payments will be made from that fund to pay down the debt.

- Mr. Feick briefly explained the Act 1 law limits schools and does not allow for saving to do projects. He explained there is a bill in the house now that could impact schools. They are requesting all districts reach out and tell their representatives to not hold schools hostage financially.
- Ms. Bowman asked if the budget would provide enough funds to cover the academic bubble. Mr. Feick stated yes and he would speak with Mr. Reichl on their text needs.
- Mr. Feick suggested that the Board request a presentation be done on the Z Space so that all members can see this program. Finance agreed they would love to see it presented.
- Mr. Feick did ask the Committee if they would like to accept the monies the state allots to the districts that come from the gambling tax. He explained that they can accept or deny. Ms. Bowman asked what would be a basis to deny. Mr. Feick stated as one example, some have religious beliefs that would not allow acceptance of the monies. The Finance committee agreed they will be accepting the funds the state makes available.
- Mr. Feick stated that he will be requesting an extension on the vacation, sick and personal days he would need to use by the end of the year due to his office being short staffed. Ms. Bowman asked if this would be a question for the auditors as to how to justify the carry-over of time. Mr. Feick explained as his contract stands alone it would only need an amendment to explain why he was allowed to extend the time given. Mr. Feick stated he would speak to the Board Members as a whole further about this request.

Open Discussion:

No other discussion and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday June 14th, 2016 6:00 p.m.
BDF/rem