

Lehighton Area School District
Lehighton, Pennsylvania
Finance Committee Meeting
Monday, March 13, 2017
6:00 P.M.

Minutes

Present

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| ☐ Andrew Yenser | Present |
| ☐ Richard Beltz | Present |
| ☐ Stacey Duerst | Present |
| ☐ Brian D. Feick | Present |
| ☐ Tina Champ | Present |
| ☐ Jonathan Cleaver | |
| ☐ Gloria Bowman | Present |
| ☐ Duane Eidem | Present |

George's Transportation Daily Run Bills for Approval (enclosure): All attending Committee members agreed to pay the February 2017 transportation bill.

LCCC Budget: Handouts were discussed the LCCC budget will go on the board agenda for March as recommended by the Finance Committee.

CCTI Budget: The big book of the CCTI budget was given to the committee at last month's meeting. The CCTI budget will go on the board agenda for March as recommended by the Finance Committee.

CLIU budget will also be on the board agenda for March, but does not need to be recommended by the Finance Committee.

Delinquent Per Cap and Occ. update and alternatives: The District has Powers, Rogers & Speaks as the collector of delinquent taxes. The

company has not remitted these collections to the District in a timely manner. They have always been late, but have gotten worse. Panther Valley used the same company and has switched to Statewide Tax Recovery. There is no cost to the District with either company. Mrs. Champ contacted the COO of Powers, Rogers & Speaks regarding not received Lehigh Valley's files. The District has been with the company for 15-20 years, but no contract can be found. Mr. Feick stated that anything collected should be turned over monthly. Mr. Feick estimates that they may owe the District \$150,000-\$200,000. Mr. Beltz stated that Atty. Schwab may need to be involved.

Mr. Feick provided handouts from Berkheimer and Statewide Tax Recovery. Mrs. Champ also stated that Keystone Collections Group to the District application and will be providing information.

Recommended by the Finance Committee to involve Atty. Schwab with contacting Powers, Rogers & Speaks for payment owed.

Recommend by the Finance Committee to look at all proposals at the next meeting and make a recommendation to the board.

Budget YTD: Year-to-Date budget handout was given to the committee. Budget is on tracks. No spending at this time unless the Superintendent approves it.

Open Discussion:

Mrs. Bowman asked about health benefit costs to date. Mr. Feick stated we are \$1.1 million ahead. Should have a new proposal for the 2017-18 school year by the next finance meeting.

Mrs. Bowman asked about the transportation contract. Mr. Feick stated that it is looking to be at 2.5% instead of 3% increase. Mrs. Champ stated that George's vehicles are all diesel, not gas.

Mrs. Bowman stated that she and Mrs. Duerst were to attend the Tax Elimination discussion in Monroe County, but it has been postponed. Mrs. Champ said that it had been discussed at the Lehigh Valley Association of

School Business Officials. Mr. Feick stated that he's against industry not paying taxes, not necessarily against the bill itself. He would like to see commercial/industry pay fair share.

Mr. Feick stated that the 5-year projection is tough with not knowing the state funding. It stayed the same for this year. Gas prices helped with the transportation budget. New Elementary Center will help with less runs for 2018.

The District participated in "Breakfast for Life". Elementary students were highest participants with 620 students participating. Middle School only saw a 5% increase. District received a grant from PDE to put a breakfast kiosk at Shull-David to try out. Mrs. Duerst stated that Middle School students don't have time in the morning for breakfast.

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Monday April 10, 2017 6:00 p.m.

BDF/mfw