

**Lehighton Area School District
Finance Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 6:00 PM**



Finance Committee Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

The following Board Members were present:

Richard Beltz, Nathan Foeller, and David Bradley (audience)

The following Administration Members were present:

Jonathan Cleaver and Rebecca Karpowicz

George's Transportation Daily Run Bill For Approval

Reviewed the August/September 2020 George's Transportation bill for payment. Mr. Cleaver stated that this bill is less this year than last year at this time (2019 \$148,580.00). Mr. George has been working great with us to improve runs. Ok to move forward with payment for this bill? Mr. Beltz - yes to pay. Mr. Foeller approved to pay.

2019/2020 YTD Budget Update

Notice today regarding the completion of the AFR submission for the 2019-2020 school year is due October 31, 2020 but be accepted until November 30, 2020. An extension requests start on November 16, 2020.

Cyber School Cost Review

150-180 students throughout the school year in non-District Cyber School. The cost for cyber regular education is \$12,890.00 per student. The Special Education Cyber cost is approximately \$30,000.00 per student. This could cost \$1,946,390.00 (using the 150 number) if every student is regular ed. The LAVA costs in 2019-2020 were \$4500.00 per student, not using our teachers, with the annual cost approximately \$679,500.00. In the 2020-2021 school year we are using our teachers but due to the volume of students in the LAVA program the costs may be close to the same.

Unfunded Mandates

Special Ed. Law passed 40% of a cost would be covered – to date costs have accelerated, does not offset actual costs
Right to Know costs and appeals

Increase Pension contributions
Legal advertising
Required trainings

Past Due Student Tuition

Patty Denicola uncovered a number of outstanding tuition bills:
Jim Thorpe paid their overdue notices
Weatherly \$73,065.00 (\$58,945.00 still being billed)
Panther Valley billed \$277,262.00 has not paid
Palmerton billed \$573,401.79 – currently working on payment options

Audience discussions with:

Mr. Foeller- how our outside numbers changed this year with students in Cyber Schools
Mr. Bradley- about the George's bill and how it was budgeted, when are we getting bussing for these other students we aren't bussing, are we going to look at reallocating funds.

Mr. Bradley- if anyone called George's to see what the costs would be for additional bussing

Mr. Bradley- if we could at least bus these students for the winter months.

Ms. Bowes – yearly audit finished, how many students do we have in LAVA this year,

Ms. Bowes- tuition – explain how a student would pay tuition here

Ms. Bowes- people left district to go to outside cyber because of the bussing issues

Mr. Kemmerer- tuition owed by our district to other districts

Mr. Kemmerer- do you see charter schools as competition for our school going forward

Mr. Kemmerer – how would school choice affect the school from a financial standpoint

Mr. Berkley- any thought to sending out a survey to see what it might take to bring these cyber students back to us

Ms. Bowes- since cyber schools are licensed by the state so would they have some of the unfunded mandates that we have

Ms. Bowes- Property tax eliminations

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, November 9, 2020 6:00 p.m.

JJC/rpk