

**Lehigh Area School District
Finance Committee Virtual Meeting
Monday, February 8, 2021**



Finance Committee Minutes

The Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

The following Board Members were present:

Mrs. Rita Spinelli, Mr. Nathan Foeller, and David Bradley (audience)

The following Administration Members were present:

Jonathan Cleaver, Edward Rarick, and Rebecca Karpowicz

George's Transportation Daily Run Bill for Approval

Mr. Rarick goes over the bill

Mrs. Spinelli and Mr. Foeller sees nothing wrong with the bill.

Mr. Cleaver states that you can now see the elementary runs on this bill

LCCC Budget

Mr. Rarick discusses the LCCC budget/debt service and explains what the district will be responsible for.

CCTI Budget

Mr. Rarick discusses the CCTI budget/dept. service

Mr. Foeller asks if that is based on the number of students we have- yes

CLIU Budget and Resolution

Mr. Rarick discussions about the CLIU Budget and the individual services that we pay for from the IU.

Mrs. Spinelli asks how this compares the year before.

Mr. Rarick will confirm but believes that it is a slight reduction from last year.

Mr. Foeller stated that he noticed it was a billing projection for the year and asked how that might change

Mr. Rarick explains that we pay 25% and the another 25% and in the spring a reconciliation and we pay a percentage until the end of the school year.

Unknown is the transportation piece of the IU. Hoping for a number in April or May

LASD Comprehensive Status Report

Mr. Rarick explains the report; from Portnoff Law Associates Real Estate Taxes.

Lehigh Area School District collections report -2019

Mr. Rarick is explaining the breakdown of the previous slide according to township.

Mr. Foeller asked if Portnoff would continue to collect on these, yes they will.

Mrs. Spinelli asked if these are outstanding not just from the previous year but the base in general.

Public Comment:

Mr. Bradley stated that he has a few questions, first the agenda lacks discussion on the annual financial report that was due back in October. Second have the government address that we have a budget due and we have not seen any information on the budget yet. You have a union contract coming up worth about half the budget along with a plan for benefits. On to Portnoff hammering down on to individuals with financial trouble adding to their burden. You don't want to add extra fees on to these people. Penalties coming from the weakest payers in the system who are already behind- immoral. Back to fact to the board of directors providing no oversight for what is being presented. Disgusted with this board, board should resign, not doing your job. Waited months on union negotiations and grievances because we don't have the professionals to help to negotiate this contract, wondering why these things are not on this agenda. Please answer my questions.

Mr. Foeller regarding the fact that I took any official action is incorrect, items are taken to the board and are discussed there. Accusations there are not appreciated.

Mr. Cleaver commented that the negotiations are not part of public meetings and that this has been reinforced and stated many times.

Ms. Bowes I have a few questions, Ms. Bowes comments on the collection reports and the numbers stated. Comprehensive report what does in legal process actually mean?

Mr. Rarick will get clarity

Ms. Bowes believes that it means that attorneys have been hired and it is going to court

Ms. Bowes and Mr. Rarick discuss this in legal process further with Mr. Rarick getting clarity

Ms. Bowes does not remember seeing the November George's bill.

Mr. Cleaver said that he will check that.

Ms. Bowes talks about the previous bills for Georges

Ms. Bowes asked about the Athletic transportation bills

Mr. Cleaver explained that they are part of the Athletic budget

Ms. Bowes states that she did not see them on the agenda for Athletics and feels that the public should be receiving those.

Ms. Bowes another issue with today's website, important messages, the link seemed to not be working and someone should be checking that link.

Ms. Bowes asking to make sure that all committee agendas are on the website

Mr. Rarick explains that we are trying to migrate everything to the calendar

Ms. Bowes wanted to know how much worse the tax collections would be for the 2021 school year.

MOTION by Mrs. Spinelli, SECONDED by Mr. Foeller to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:35 p.m.