

**Lehigh Area School District
Finance Committee Virtual Meeting
Monday, April 12, 2021**



Finance Committee Minutes

The Meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

The following Board Members were present:

Mrs. Rita Spinelli, Mr. Nathan Foeller, Richard Beltz, and David Bradley (audience), Larry Stern (audience), Gail Maholick (audience)

The following Administration Members were present:

Jonathan Cleaver, Edward Rarick, and Rebecca Karpowicz

George's Transportation Daily Run Bill for Approval

Mr. Rarick explained the January bill issues

Mrs. Spinelli looked over the bill and stated she felt they were good to be paid

BoardDocs LT Agreement

Mr. Rarick explains the benefits of going with BoardDocs

- Save money by not producing paper packets
- Save employee time in the preparation
- Enhanced public service, documents readily available
- Reducing paper waste

Use as a tool to make the district more efficient and transparent, just something we are suggesting, web based and can be shared via social media

Mr. Foeller asked if the general public would be able to use this

Mr. Rarick – yes, also works for policies and explains the use for policy

Mr. Beltz, Mrs. Spinelli and Mr. Foeller all stated that they would support going with BoardDocs

Budget Slide Show

Mr. Rarick discusses the slide show he prepared to explain the 2021-2022 school year budget, a general overview

Mr. Rarick to provide all information to the board in a few days, plan to have another meeting in a few weeks to discuss further.

PFM Presentation

There was a presentation last year to the board and we asked them to present again for this year

PFM employee explains their presentation

Mrs. Spinelli has thoughts but no questions at this time but agrees with Mr. Foeller in the getting the bond rating back to where it needs to be. Double edge sword because we are pushing the debt out.

PFM explains the timeline

Mr. Foeller asked if the budget Mr. Rarick presented had any of the cares funds included.

Mr. Rarick stated that there was 62% included, for the next fiscal year

Mr. Rarick talks about the district technology and the outdated devices the staff and students currently have.

Mr. Rarick explains what some other district are using the funds for and states that we should be careful how we use these funds

Mrs. Spinelli commented that we still do not know what education is going to look like in the coming years and it is very important that for us to make sure we can sustain ourselves without additional help from state or federal

Mr. Rarick stated that there is a different way to look at education now, we were forced to look at it differently due to COVID

Mr. Bradley commented that this board has proven that it lacks the discipline to form a budget or adhere to a budget in the past

Mr. Bradley asked if Zack still on the line? He is not, this is a committee meeting and people should have a right to speak, move on, get the cash flow relief- can't we just spend less then we take in for a few years. Obviously yes people.

Mr. Bradley continues to talk about the PFM presentation and budget issues

Mr. Bradley stated that three voted in a committee meeting to go ahead with BoardDocs, not in compliance with code, without first asking the public for their opinion

Ms. Bowes stated that she would have liked to asked PFM a few questions, however when is the 2014 note paid off? Believes it is five years

Mr. Rarick to double check this information, possibly 2026

Ms. Bowes doesn't believe that there is a ton on funds owed on this, we owe approximately five million and realize we have a cash flow issue, but seems that it doesn't make sense to extend that amount of debt

Mr. Rarick thoughts to have them present at the board meeting and have more public present and have them stay to answer questions from the public

Ms. Bowes continues to talk about the notes

Ms. Bowes states that a big cost of our cyber costs are due to lack of transportation

Ms. Bowes asks if the transportation part includes reimbursement from the state

Mr. Rarick stated that this is in the revenue part of the budget, roughly about 432,000.00 less than the 1.3 million

Ms. Bowes asks that when she tried to get on this meeting it said that the host was in another meeting and wondered what that was

Mr. Cleaver stated they had an executive session prior to the finance meeting

Mr. Rarick commented that Ms. Bowes had asked previously about state revenues and where we were, still due roughly 4 million in basic Ed funding. Roughly comes in June 1st, and some in April. Due by then end of the school year

Ms. Bowes continues to talk about PFM and hopes that it goes online to be reviewed

Ms. Bowes asks how our cash flow is looking currently

Mr. Rarick states that we are in a pretty good place to finish out the school year. roughly 9 million in our holding accounts. Coupled with the state funding should carry us into the July time period before the local funding comes in

Ms. Bowes asks as far as receiving the tax bills – when are we going to receive them?

Mr. Rarick stated that he will reach out to the assessment office to find out

Ms. Bowes stated that it was the printing, did we save money when we had the tax collectors print them, should we look to go back that? Was there a savings?

Ms. Bowes mentioned that we currently already have BoardDocs,

Mr. Cleaver stated that they are currently only for policy, PSBA board docs to put out policies into them. This is included in what we pay PSBA

Ms. Bowes asks if our payment to PSBA would be lower if we purchased BoardDocs by district, does this help with the minutes for the board meetings

Mr. Rarick stated that he is pretty sure this is included, making the minutes searchable on the site

Ms. Bowes asks if the minutes are still retained at the local level

Mr. Cleaver stated yes they would still be retained

Ms. Bowman asks if there is a curriculum line item, textbook rotation cycles, etc.

Mr. Rarick stated that yes there is budgeted funds for curriculum items, found it very disturbing that in the past with cuts that workbooks and textbooks of this nature were not purchased

Ms. Bowman asks if we could show here where it might be

Mr. Rarick stated that it would be under the 1110 supply code, more broken down than what is showing on the current presentation.

Mr. Cleaver stated that curriculum was discussed during an admin meeting with emphasis on ELA curriculum at the elementary level and looking at learning loss, 20% of the ESSER three funds need to go towards learning loss

Ms. Bowman stated that there is reimbursement for the debt service from the state, if the board decides to go with the plan is that still in place

Mr. Rarick stated that we would still receive reimbursements on the bonds that were not refinanced, new would fall under a different structure

MS. Bowman asked when that reimbursement usually comes thru

Mr. Rarick explains when those usually come in and the process

Next Meeting Date: May 10, 2021