



Board of School Directors Committee Meetings Minutes Wednesday, January 10, 2024

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Members present: Nicholas Braccio, William Brong, Janet Flisak, Andrew Landis, Ken Keith, Stephen Nelson, William Formica, Kimberly Wheeler, Michael Barnacz

Others present: Frank Ball, John Franzen, Frank Gallagher, Christopher Hey, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, Stu Majoram, Gina Pardovich, Damion Spahr, Michael Taylor and Megan Zweiback

1. Education-Personnel Committee

1.1 North Montco Technical Career Center Update

Mr. Landis called the Education-Personnel Committee meeting to order at 6:31 P.M. noting two new E-P committee members; Kim Wheeler and Nick Braccio. Mr. Landis stated that this evening an update on the North Montco Technical Career Center program would be presented.

Dr. Gallagher introduced Gina Pardovich, Administrative Director of NMTCC who spoke briefly on the enrollment at the school, indicating that it remains high, along with with the other career technical schools in Montgomery County. Current enrollment at NMTCC is approximately 1,100 students.

Ms. Pardovich spoke about the graduate rate of the school indicating that almost 48% of the students stated that they would pursue additional education in their field of choice or had already accepted employment in their program of choice.

Ms. Pardovich also spoke about a wait-list for some programs and the school remains flexible in its offerings. Duplicate courses were phased out; horticulture was highlighted as a course that has been eliminated, since interested students are able to receive the same course instruction at their home schools. Drafting courses are also now offered at home schools. Other programs have been redesigned and re-tooled to offer skills and employment experiences that are in-demand. Ms. Pardovich cited the new building and property management program which was filled immediately.

The Health Sciences program which has always been a popular program will be adding a physical therapy program offering certifications upon completion. Ms. Pardovich also spoke of a collaboration with Lansdale Hospital that will offer Allied Health opportunities for students.

Ms. Pardovich closed her commentary by expressing pride in the support that is received from all of the sending schools. She thanked the Board and the Administration for their enthusiasm for all of the program offerings.

Board members praised Ms. Pardovich for her leadership and commitment to the program. A brief discussion occurred about the options within the NMTCC program and its ability to remain flexible with its offerings and the ability to adapt to employment and industry needs. Messrs Brong and Nelson both commented as Joint Operating Committee representatives and acknowledged that it is the faculty and staff that make the NMTCC program so successful.

Mr. Brong also acknowledged the recent announcement of Ms. Pardovich's retirement in June of this year.

Mrs. Pardovich reminded everyone of the school Open House on Thursday, February 1st.

Mr. Landis adjourned the Education-Personnel Meeting at 6:58 P.M.

2. Policy Committee

2.1 First Reading of Policy 251 - Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care and Other Educational Instability

Mrs. Flisak called the Policy Meeting at 6:59 P.M.

Dr. Gallagher noted that this is an update to an existing policy and is even more applicable as additional students and

families are experiencing transition in some way.

Director of Pupil Services Mrs. Zweiback stated that the revisions to the existing policy were dictated by Act 1 which is a large piece of legislation redefining homelessness. She stated that it elaborates on the definition of homelessness to include educational instability. Its goal to reduce all types of barriers that would prevent students from receiving education. Mrs. Zweiback also indicated that the specific changes are provided to the school district from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA).

Mrs. Zweiback also stated that the The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act guarantees a free and appropriate public education for all homeless children and youth. It outlines procedures for making school placement decisions, enrolling students, and determining responsibility. Mrs. Zweiback stated that the school district currently has 34 students identified as homeless. Mrs. Zweiback also noted that other area agencies offer assistance and we often partner with those agencies to share transportation costs and others services to support students in need.

Mrs. Flisak also reiterated that each student has a unique circumstance and those needs must be met accordingly.

Mr. Landis asked about the transportation to and from another district and Mrs. Zweiback noted that it is a cooperative effort to support the student and the McKinney Vento Act dictates as well as decisions that are in the best interest of students. Mr. Barnacz asked how the school district is informed of homelessness and Mrs. Zweiback responded that it is often identified at the time of student registration or awareness by our own staff Home & School Visitor.

Mrs. Zweiback also indicated that this policy allows for a plan that will follow the student wherever they may move in an effort to create seamless education.

A member of the audience asked about support for a student without parents/guardians. Ms. Zweiback responded that this is considered "an unaccompanied youth" and typically assisted by the school guidance counselor, the Pupil Services Director and the Home & School Visitor.

Mrs. Flisak noted this is first reading of Policy 251 and upon acknowledgement would be moved forward for a second reading at the January 25 Board Action Meeting.

Mrs. Flisak adjourned the Policy Meeting at 7:13 P.M.

3. Finance Committee

3.1 2024-25 Budget Process - Revenues

Mr. Nelson called the Finance Committee Meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

Mr. Nelson stated that the purpose of this evenings presentation is to explain the budget process with the focus on Revenues. Dr. Gallagher commented that this information would be helpful to the newest members of the Board of School Directors.

Director of Business Affairs, Mr. Taylor reviewed a slide presentation that depicted major revenue categories, current year projections and next year estimates. Mr. Taylor stated that the three major revenues categories are local sources, state sources and federal sources.

Each of those categories was reviewed to include the items that make up Local Revenue; current and interim real estate taxes, per capita taxes, earned income taxes, real estate transfer taxes, delinquent real estate taxes, earnings on investments, community service activities and other local revenues.

Mr. Taylor elaborated on the Local Revenue sources by showing a Ten-Year Comparison slide, as well as a prior year, current year and next year estimate slide.

The same information was also presented for State Revenue sources which include Basic Education Funding, Social Security Subsidy, Special Education Funding, Transportation Subsidy, Plancon Reimbursement, State Property Tax Allocation, Ready to Learn Block Grant, Retirement Subsidy and other state revenues.

The Federal Revenue which is the smallest form, approximately 1.5%, of revenue available to the school district includes Title Funding, CARES ACT, and Medical Assistance.

Mr. Taylor explained the Basic Education Funding (state revenue) and the calculation that determines the percentage of funding made available to the school district based upon its enrollment; average daily membership (ADM), poverty percentage, and the sparsity size ratio of the school district. Mr. Taylor acknowledged the complexities within the calculations and the unique challenges the process presents to the annual budget process.

Mr. Taylor reviewed explained the Act 1 Index and how it relates to the budget creation for each school district within

the Commonwealth. The Act One Index for the 2024-2025 school year is 5.3%. Mr. Taylor shared a slide that presented new revenue increase by percentage:

0.0% = \$ 186,804
1.0% = 942,569
2.0% = 1,885,139
3.0% = 2,827,708
4.0% = 3,770,278
5.3% = \$4,995,359

Mr. Taylor shared the 2024-2025 Budget Calendar with dates and events leading up to a Final Approved Budget June 20, 2024.

Dr. Gallagher stated there is no new information on the Fair Funding litigation which would change the process in which the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania funds each of its public school districts.

Mr. Nelson thanked Mr. Taylor for the presentation and noted the complexities of the budget process.

Mrs. Flisak thanked Mr. Taylor for the comprehensive presentation and asked about managing the budget deficit. Mr. Taylor responded that the school district has used its fund balance in the past to balance its budget and while not the preferred method, indicated that various special education challenges continue to put unknown pressures on the annual budget. Mr. Taylor stated that an Operational budget that a budget where operational revenues match operational expenses is the goal.

Mr. Taylor spoke to the challenges of variable costs when student needs are so different. He spoke to the district's ability to meet some needs in-house and others where specialists are required and outside contractors must be utilized.

Mr. Nelson indicated that Costs / Expenditures will be presented at the February Finance Committee meeting which will elaborate on these varying student needs.

Mr. Formica thanked Mr. Taylor for the presentation and asked about the impact of the economy on real estate transfer taxes and Earned Income Taxes. Mr. Taylor indicated that the district had previously been behind on those revenues and remain cautious on its future predictions.

Mr. Brong asked about unfunded mandates and Mr. Taylor and Mr. Nelson indicated that those numbers will be discussed in the expenditure presentation.

Dr. Gallagher stated that this presentation would be made available on the school district website.

Mr. Nelson adjourned the Finance Committee Meeting at 7:55 P.M.

4. Operations Committee

4.1 ESCO Recommendation

Mr. Brong called the Operations Committee Meeting to order at 8:02 P.M.

Dr. Gallagher noted the four agenda items are all relating to facilities improvements.

Director of Business Affairs, Mr. Taylor noted that in August of 2023, the board approved GKO architects to oversee the design on the proposed renovation projects at Indian Crest Middle School, Salford Hills and West Broad Street Elementary Schools. Mr. Taylor reiterated the renovations at each of the schools include some demolition including the modular units at West Broad Street, and infrastructure improvements to all three schools including ceilings, walls, windows and doors. In addition, the renovation includes auditorium lighting and sound improvements at Indian Crest Middle School.

As previously discussed, these projects will be utilizing a GESA (Guaranteed Energy Savings Act) supporting lower administrative costs and providing one point of contact for all of the multi-faceted projects. Mr. Taylor stated that an RFP(Q) had been issued in order to select ESCO's (Energy Services Company) to manage the projects. He noted that five proposals were received and companies were interviewed to determine eligibility and qualifications.

Mr. Taylor reiterated that this evening the administration is making the recommendation to select SitelogIQ Energy Services of King of Prussia to complete the ESCO design and proposed construction work at Indian Crest Middle School and Salford Hills Elementary School. Mr. Taylor also stated that the administration is making the recommendation to select ICS of Media, PA to complete the ESCO design and proposed construction work at West Broad Street Elementary School.

Operations Committee Chairman Mr. Brong noted that this process is in an effort to start all of the projects simultaneously.

A member of the public questioned the need for a new roof at Indian Valley Middle School during the middle of a current renovation. Mr. Taylor responded that the replacement of the Indian Valley roof does appear on the district's long-term facilities plan, however the need for immediate replacement is unexpected as the original useful life of the roof had been expected to be years away.

The committee agreed to move forward for approval of SitelogIQ and ICS as the Energy Services Companies for the Indian Crest, Salford Hills and West Broad Street schools projects.

4.2 Indian Valley Roof Proposal

Mr. Taylor stated that the administration is seeking approval on a proposal to replace the roof at Indian Valley Middle School. Mr. Taylor introduced Mr. Spahr of SitelogIQ who reviewed a slide presentation outlining the recommended phased repair work to begin in the Summer of 2024 and to be completed Summer of 2025. Mr. Spahr noted that the project is being developed in conjunction with Garland Roofing Materials and several contractors, who have all performed work for the school district in the past would be contracted for the project.

Mr. Spahr shared a timeline of the project pre-pricing, GESA amendment and supporting information that would present final pricing costs to the school district for consideration at the January 25th meeting. If awarded, mobilization and re-roofing work could begin in May of 2024.

Mr. Braccio asked for how the district will mitigate the current condition of the roof until work begins and Mr. Taylor responded that the building facilities department has triaged leaks and has made repairs to alleviate daily interruptions.

A brief discussion occurred about air quality in the rooms that recently experienced leaks and Supervisor of Operations, Mr. Ball stated that the school district performs air quality testing in all of its buildings as well as daily inspections of buildings.

A member of the public expressed concerns about the repairs and roof replacement at Indian Valley Middle School.

The committee agreed to move forward an action item to replace the Indian Valley Middle School roof.

4.3 Multi-purpose Field Discussion Update

Mr. Taylor gave an update on the proposed synthetic multi-purpose field stating that township variances have been approved and the next step is to submit plans to the township for land development. Mr. Brong indicated that entering into a professional services agreement will create the plans necessary for submission to the township. Mr. Taylor indicated that the scope of the agreement would include topographic survey and project base mapping, geotechnical services, preliminary land development planning, erosion and sediment control and storm water management.

A member of the public asked about the time line for completion of the field and Mr. Taylor responded that it has not been approved at this time, however if approved, could potentially be built in the spring of 2025. Another member of the public asked why the information regarding the proposed field is not posted to Board Docs.

A member of the public expressed concern about the air quality of the pool and the impact on swimmers.

A member of the public inquired about previous comments regarding the the cost of the proposed field and the cost to taxpayers. Mr. Keith responded that previous comments about no cost to taxpayers was referring to costs associated with the district's debt service financing. Mr. Taylor explained the process of debt service as it relates to the cost of operations projects.

Mr. Brong reiterated that in order to determine the cost of the proposed project, detailed drawings are needed to determine the scope of the work.

A member of the public asked about considerations of student athletes physical well-being competing on a synthetic field. Mr. Taylor said there are pros and cons of turf fields and the district is looking for options that will allow for play after inclement weather.

A member of the public asked about turf field availability for use by the marching band and Mr. Taylor responded that the addition of a turf field would certainly add additional use to all facilities.

The committee agreed to move forward with ELA Sport to create a full set of plans for the proposed multi-purpose synthetic field.

4.4 Penn Builder's Franconia & Indian Valley Outdoor Surfaces Proposal

Mr. Taylor reviewed the scope of work proposed at Franconia Elementary School and at Indian Valley Middle School which had previously been discussed at the November Operations Committee meeting. The Franconia Elementary school playground has been identified for refurbishment and the recommendation for demolition of existing tennis courts at Indian Valley Middle School to be replaced with basketball courts.

Mr. Taylor stated that the original project bids submitted by Barker & Barker have been rejected due to cost. In an effort to facilitate completion of the projects, the administration negotiated with Penn Builder's Inc., the general contractor on the current Indian Valley Middle School renovation project and has secured competitive proposals for each of the above referenced projects.

The Penn Builder's Inc. proposal to mill and overlay the hard play area at Franconia Elementary School is \$71,830.00. The Penn Builder's Inc. proposal to demo existing fencing, net posts and install 3 new basketball courts in place of the existing tennis courts at Indian Valley Middle School is \$150,989.16. Upon approval, both of these projects can begin spring of 2024.

The Operations Committee agreed to move forward change orders to the existing Penn Builder's contact which will approve their proposals for this work at Franconia and Indian Valley Middle School.

A brief discussion occurred about the proposed options for a track resurfacing and/or restoration at Indian Valley Middle School. Several options including cinder and synthetic were discussed. In addition, long jump runways, pits and pads were discussed. Mr. Brong suggested that a separate review be done on the conditions and options for improvement to the Indian Valley Middle School track.

A member of the public suggested that the Indian Valley Middle School track be comparable to the track at Indian Crest Middle School.

The Operations Committee meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael Taylor, C.P.A.
Board Secretary / Director of Business Affairs