Budget Advisory Team
Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2015

Present: Sandy Anzalone, Thomas Murphy, Mary Banko, Dan Braunscheidel, Mike Breeden, Mike Byrnes, Linda Christ, Jack Cuddihy, Marisa Fallacaro, Jennifer Horschel, Kathy Klopp, Lucinda Karstedt, David Martin, Paul Shephard

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 20, 2015, 5:45 p.m., Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria

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I. Called to Order 5:53 p.m.

II. Budget Advisory Team Meeting

A. Thomas Murphy announced that the topics for the meeting would be transportation and the BOCES Capital Project.

B. Transportation – Mary Banko

- A synopsis of the transportation presentation was handed out, which included photos of the fleet. Eden has Thomas, Blue Bird, and International buses. It is difficult for mechanics, because parts for each type of bus can differ, but the mechanics are doing a good job.
- There has been a severe fleet reduction over the past 18 months. In 2014, there were 34 buses – 24 large, 5 small, 3 minivans and 2 wheelchair buses. At that time, there were 27 runs. The District began losing buses due to DOT failures – one was an engine failure, and the rest were due to rotting. In the middle of 2015, there were not enough buses. Mathews, Leonard, Iroquois and Orchard Park lent buses to the District. A replacement plan was put together. Four new and four used buses were purchased during the Summer of 2015. At the same time, a complete re-routing of the District was performed. There are 24 runs currently.
- The long-term solution involves the use of a rotation plan for future bus replacement; a proposed purchase plan for 2016-2017, including two full-size buses, three small buses and possibly a mini-van or car; repairs to the existing fleet; preventive maintenance; an undercoating plan; and constant evaluation of routing. The need for walking and corner stops were eliminated. Buses are now fuller, but they are not overloaded.
- The Board of Education committed to a rotation plan last year. Seven to nine years is the rotation plan the Board committed to. The four used buses that were purchased will not last too long. Engine history shows they shut down at about 200,000 miles. Children will not be put in a minivan. It is too risky. They are safer in a bus. Seven buses are nine years old or older.
- Mr. Murphy added that the cost for vehicles purchases would be about $450,000 each year.
- Most repairs are done in-house; however some do have to be sent out. All new buses come with rust proofing.
- Mrs. Anzalone asked about a grant. There is a grant available. A district must show proof they are purchasing this year. Hopefully, there will be a similar grant available next year.
- About 1/6th of the cameras on the buses do not work. It is hoped that they will be fixed.

C. – BOCES Capital Project

- Dr. John O'Connor presented the Erie 2 Chautauqua Cattaraugus BOCES Capital Project update for Eden Central School.
- There are four campuses – Carrier, Hewes, LoGuidice and Ormsby – and 16 buildings involved.
- The Capital Facilities Committee consists of four component Superintendents, BOCES staff, a BOCES board member, an architect and engineers. The committee reviewed the Building Conditions Survey for each site. Focus is on safety, program and efficiency.

- Facilities projects are an energy performance project - $3 million, an annual capital project - $1 million, and a BOCES capital facilities project - $25 million.
- The goal of the Energy Performance Contract is to become as energy efficient as possible through installation of energy conservation measures and implementation of optimal operation and maintenance procedures. Financing costs must be realized in savings.
- Beginning in 2014-2015, the annual capital facility charge of $1 million was reinstituted and distributed to component districts by RWADA (Residency Weighted Average Daily Attendance). This allows BOCES to initiate small projects on a yearly basis. The goal is to start and complete projects in the same fiscal year to assure generation of aid in the same year.
- Capital Charge Project – Next year's project is in the planning phase and will include financing for the energy performance project (about $250,000 of the $1 million). Last year's project was the roof at Ormsby. This year, the project is fire alarm systems at LoGuidice, Carrier and Hewes (about $1 million).
- Capital Facilities Project – a comprehensive project is being planned to complete about $25 million of work at the four BOCES campuses. The specific project items and budget have been distributed to the component districts. Items are related to safety, program and efficiency.
- Capital Financing – There are three methods by which financing can be authorized for supervisory districts – unanimous consent method, the DASNY program method, and/or capital facility charge.
- Financing Options – The unanimous joint agreement allows financing flexibility that the other two methods do not offer. A mixture of cash, BANS and Bonds could be used over time.
- Intermunicipal Agreement – The Intermunicipal or Unanimous Joint Agreement was adopted by BOCES on November 4th. In order to ratify this agreement, it must be adopted by each of the component districts between November 5th and January 29th. As of today, 12 of the 27 districts have adopted this resolution.
- Project Phasing – The plan is to phase the project in over three years – 2017-2018 Ormsby & Carrier - $10 million; 2018-2019 LoGuidice - $9 million; and 2019-2020 Hewes - $6 million.
- What it Means for Eden – Eden's RWADA share is 4.04%, which equates to $1,009,948 over the three year period. Eden's BOCES aid ratio is estimated at 68.6%. The estimated net in July 2017 is $150,128; in July 2018 it is $135,115; and in July 2019 it is $90,077. Mr. Murphy stated he prefers avoiding finance charges wherever possible. He asked how it would affect the tax cap. Per Dr. O'Connor, at this point, it is still part of the tax cap. BOCES capital project costs cannot count as an exemption. The GEA revenue has been shorted for several years. The Department of Taxation is writing a resolution that they would like effective in 2016-2017 to allow BOCES capital project expenses to be exempt. Mrs. Klopp questioned whether the District would still pay the same amount if fewer students from Eden attended BOCES educational centers. BOCES provides more than student services.
- Incidentals – 30% of all costs/fees associated are included in the unanimous agreement. If even one district votes down the unanimous agreement, then another method must be used. The other two options would be more costly. The next steps include visits to buildings, submitting information to NYSED, Board vote at the January meeting, and discuss with Bond Counsel. There is an infrastructure meeting after the board meeting tonight.

III. Meeting Adjourned at 6:57 p.m.