

Board of Education Finance Committee
Minutes
March 4, 2014

Present for the meeting were Mr. Sessions, Mr. Preis, Mr. Cushing, Ms. Quinley, Dr. Clippard, Dr. Boren and Dr. Belcher. Also joining the committee were Dr. Stiepleman and Dr. Lyon.

Mr. Sessions called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the minutes. Mr. Preis moved and Mr. Cushing seconded that the minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Dr. Stiepleman presented information relating to a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Natural Resources and Columbia Public Schools for construction and use of a school building at the Rock Bridge State Park. The committee discussed the payment for long term use of the facility of \$400,000 to be paid in July 2014. These funds would contribute to the cost of the construction and serve as a one-time lease payment by the District. The planned opening for the Nature School would be summer 2015. The board discussed the plan to control operating cost increases by using existing 5th grade teacher FTE to staff the school. Other operating costs are estimated at \$180,000 currently.

The committee asked that Dr. Stiepleman bring the topic to the Board of Education at the regular meeting in March as a discussion item with official action on the MOU to be at either the March work session of the BOE or the April meeting.

Ms. Quinley shared 2014-2015 revenue assumptions with committee noting the following in particular as current assumptions for the budget creation.

- Reduction of capital projects levy by 5 cents to increase operating fund revenue
- Reduction of capital projects levy by 2 cents for the one-time payment to DNR
- State revenues in flux as the legislature currently considers different options

Dr. Belcher shared that the cabinet has been considering staffing and budget increase needs for next year including improvement in the elementary media specialist and guidance model to support mental health needs of students and imbed technology into learning. Additionally additional FTE and operating budget increases to support the growing physical plant needs is being considered. The committee also discussed a need of 7-10 additional FTE for getting Battle High School to 9-12th grades next year.

Compensation was discussed as a priority for the Board of Education and the administration although improvement methods will be determined at the bargaining table for teachers and as funding is more apparent for all. For that reason, the administration is not bringing forward the aforementioned requests until there is more information as to the state funding for next year.

The committee discussed meeting times and agreed to change future meeting time to 5:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: Linda D. Quinley, CFO