

RTM Education Committee
Place: Darien Town Hall
Start: 7:03 pm

Meeting with the BOE to discuss the electrical upgrade request for the elementary schools for air conditioning.

Members present:

Lucy Fiore

Barbara Thorne

Sarah Neumann

Anne Reed

Theresa Vogt

Clara Sartori

Carolina McGoey

Petr Marousek

Liza Lucas

Sheila Sherwood

Janet Grogan

Karen McNicoll

Several BOE members (Tara Ochman, David Dineen, Katie Stein, and others)

not present- Ed Washecka, Curtis Butler, and Jay Hardison

Clara Sartori called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

BOE chair Tara Ochman discussed the request. Off cycle request. Money was returned to the budget when not used last year. Heat waves adding load to the electrical panels. Desire to purchase the elementary schools a/c units- Hindley, Holmes, Royle.

Mike Lynch- do the schools have the capacity to handle this load? Yes. There is enough on the system to handle the loads, but insufficient panels to handle the distribution of the load. New panels and breakers needed. Each building to be run in 2 units. Total of two panels going in each building. First and second floor. Royle needs a new distribution panel, hence the increased cost. If passed tonight, the contractor can be called tomorrow. Goal is to have this done by June. Done during off-hours when kids are not in school. Desire to purchase the units is being done through the BOE budget.

Question- Theresa Vogt- is it possible to handle the load without the portables. Without the load of the portables, the demand on the panels will be less.

Lucy Fiore- How much was five back to the town? \$700K was given back to the town.

Barbara Thorne- information was complete. Some classrooms already have

units, due to need for some kids that have a medical need to have it. Expensive to re-wire classrooms to move units.

Clara Sartori- Central air- millions of dollars to install. AR- schools are now putting them in all over the tri-state areas.

Ox-Ridge will have central air in the new building, similar to Tokeneke. TV- does current Ox have window units. BOE determining when to purchase. Some units exist there now. Panel already updated at current Ox.

Clara Sartori- Why different brands of a/c's? Quote from the state depot. Couple of quick typos on the document.

Tara Ochman- the administration has to close schools if the heat is excessive. Difficult at the end of the year.

All learning rooms (classes and speech, etc) will be air-conditioned.

Motion- for \$355k for electrical panel upgrades for Hindley, Holmes, and Royle- AR then BT seconded.

Unanimous vote.

Julie Best, CDSP co-chair joined the group.

Discussion on Superintendent's 2019 - 2020 Proposed Budget

Questions have been submitted to the BOE. Some answers at the recent BOE meeting. Budget to be approved February 12th. Public Hearing on January 29th at 7 pm.

Discussion over increase for some teams to bring BOE contribution to 50% for all teams (ice hockey, etc). Questions about diving costs at the NC Y for the girls and boys teams.

Concerns and questions about sports. There seems to be a lack of consistent policy, etc.

Question- can we see what requests have been made in the past that have been put on the "back burner". How do we feel about the interim superintendent proposing 4 new psychologists? Should he be putting forth many new FTE's? Is this a request coming from the elementary schools or a new administration? Concern over the topic of elementary school students discussing suicide re: need for school psychologists. Question regarding out of district placement and costs. Costs regarding dyslexia, ADHD, etc.

Process- BOE budget built in the fall by the administration and sent to the BOE.

The BOE then discusses additions/subtraction to the administration's budget. After discussion and a public hearing. After the BOE votes on it, it becomes the BOE budget. Then goes to the RTM for vote in May. The RTM Education committee votes and passes along recommendations to the RTM. Budget and capital items.

Lucy Fiore-did we get an answer on the number of referrals for a school psychologist. Not yet.

Announcement- plastic bag ban hearing on February 6th. Looking to ban plastic bags and to charge for paper bags. Laws would need to be changed.

Motion to adjourn - Theresa Vogt, then Carolina McGoey seconded. Adjourned at 7:49.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Neumann
RTM Education clerk