

Proposed Minutes
RTM-Finance and Budget Committee
Revised Monday, March 28, 2016

PLACE:

Town Hall Room 119
Meeting Starts: 7:35pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Davis, Martha Banks, Seth Morton, Charles Baldwin (later arrival), Lisa Yarnell, Terry Duffy, Steve Anderson, Bert Von Stuelpnagel, Rob Cardone, Debra Ritchie

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brent Hayes, James Howe, Marlene Hayes

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mike Lynch, BOE Operations; Dr. Brenner, Superintendent of Schools; Jon Zagrodzky, Chair BOF; Elizabeth Hagerty-Ross, Vice Chair BOE; Callie Sullivan, BOE; Jennifer Charneski Finance Director

CALL TO ORDER

Jack Davis called the meeting to order at 7:31pm with a quorum of 9 of 13 members.

The agenda was to review each of the proposed BOE capital budget items. A sense of the meeting was taken for each item. All were approved with “no” votes and abstentions only noted.

- \$70K for replacement of a BOE truck and a John Deere
- Choice of Roofing for 35 Leroy replacement- slate @\$496K +copper leads, or Composite @\$420K +copper flashing or Asphalt @\$370K +aluminum leads (less years of existence)
 - After some discussion, the committee voted to opt for the asphalt roof.
 - The Chair agreed to notify the BOF of this decision
- Generator for Royle Elementary
 - This is the last of the school generators to be installed
- \$40K for Oxridge gym floor –
 - Moved from a #2 priority to a #1 priority by the BOE as the Administration found a less expensive alternative to complete the project
 - The BOE presented this as a safety item
 - Discussion was had regarding the need for the replacement including the potential for a lawsuit should an injury occur and that related cost
- \$35K Holmes bathroom partition
- Holmes resurfacing of the parking lot
 - Steve Anderson raised concerns regarding the need to replace versus selective repair or patching
 - M. Lynch presented an opposing view
 - This passed with Anderson voting against
- \$38K for Hindley partitions in the bathroom and \$52k for replacement windows
- Move of Administrative offices to the front of Hindley, 1 abstention and 1 against (Anderson)
- Two items for Middlesex Middle School, Carpet and the Master Clock repair
- High school capital projects of 1) New Hot Water Heater, 2) Cafeteria Expansion (a \$1MM project)
 - Approval for funding the hot water heater. Discussion was centered on need and whether tankless could be used. The cost of tankless was prohibitive due to additional plumbing/design costs where the ROI would not be achieved.
 - Based upon the BOE facilities tour, it was determined that while there was a need for the cafeteria extension, the financials were not sufficient. It was recommended by the F&B with knowledge that RTM Education supported the decision to defer the project until better financial projections could be produced. These projections would include the FFE for the cafeteria. Agreement was to authorize the allowance for design specs and financial estimates for \$100,000 and to relay this discussion to the BOF.
- Storage Shed for DHS \$250k

- Discussions regarding the need to better manage the sports equipment was made by Dr Brenner. That for a school system that rated its athletic commitment, the protection and availability of equipment was amongst the worst he had seen. There was also discussion that youth sports using DHS facilities for their storage should pay for such use. The BOE agreed to investigate. This item was approved.

There was further discussion on the BOE operating budget. Steve Anderson stated that the 3.44% increase was not consistent with inflation. The Chair stated that without the incremental SPED out of district and psychologist increases, the increase would have been under 3%. Dr. Brenner stated that he had never in his entire career every presented a budget with a “3” in front and that next year it would be under 3%. Dr. Brenner discussed several areas that will be addressed in the future to lower costs to the district as well as within SPED. A brief discussion on the technology initiative was had. It was discussed that the increase in school budgets over the last ten years was significant while the growth in the student population was about 1% CAGR and not sustainable. Further discussion of the drivers of the BOE budgets over the last 10 years would be had after the budget process. All parties agreed.

NEXT STEPS

It was determined that a similar meeting to the one held tonight would need to be held soon to review the BOS budget although as it was much smaller in magnitude. A special RTM F&B meeting was set for Monday, April 4th to continue the same kind of discussion on the BOS capital items.

ADJOURNMENT

Deb Ritchie moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Terry Duffy. Meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa F. Yarnell, Clerk