



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION - FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Finance Committee Meeting AT Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Bloomfield Board of Education 1133 Blue Hills Avenue Board Room, 1133 Blue Hills Avenue ,
Bloomfield, CT 06002

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order
M. Williams
2. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approval of Minutes - Finance Committee Meeting - January 24, 2017 2
M. Williams
3. New Business
 - A. Alliance Construction Grant
W. Guzman
 - B. Bid Awards
W. Guzman
 1. Retaining Wall
W. Guzman
 2. Air Handler Units
W. Guzman
 3. Surveillance Cameras
W. Guzman
 - C. Review and Approval of the 2017-2018 Healthy Food Certification Statement
W. Guzman
4. Adjournment



BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS – FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
Bloomfield Board of Education
1133 Blue Hills Avenue
Board Room

ATTENDANCE: M. Williams, Chair Present
Q. Johnson Present *arrived at 6:14 p.m.*
D. Banks Present

ALSO PRESENT: J. Thompson W. Guzman S. Braun
W. Casper W. Joslyn E. Pierce
S. Simpson D. Harris M. Walters
R. Ike N. Campagna (*intern*)

1. CALL TO ORDER

M. Williams called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2. A. Approval of Minutes –Finance Committee – October 25, 2016

A motion was made by D. Banks and seconded by M. Williams for the Finance Committee to approve the meeting minutes from October 25, 2016, as presented.

M. Williams	Aye
D. Banks	Abstain

The motion was passed 1-0-1.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3. A. Arace Roof Panel Project - Update

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer shared an update on the bid award for the Carmen Arace Roof Solar Panel Project. The agreement from Kingspan Energy is based on a twenty year lease. This agreement was sent to the board attorneys Shipman & Goodwin for review. The district was notified that Connecticut Green Bank is unable to finance a twenty year lease; and that the lease must be for twenty-five years.

Mr. Guzman shared a revised financial analysis on the Solar Project for Carmen Arace with projections showing the twenty and twenty-five year savings. He also noted that revised year lease does not change any of the original bids. Mr. Casper noted that the bids from the vendors were based on cost per KWh. Mr. Guzman is proposing an amendment for the Board to approve a twenty-five year lease agreement, which will then go to the Town Council for approval.

Mr. Guzman also shared that the solar panel project was shared with the Town Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee and the response was favorable.



One board member inquired the timeline with the revisions to the lease. Mr. Guzman shared that Kingspan is already moving ahead with preliminary submissions to Eversource. With all necessary approvals, the panels may be online by the end of June 2017.

It was inquired by the committee if the district is still assured in its decision to go forward with Kingspan Energy. Mr. Casper stated that based on the results of the RFP, on the size of the system and what it can generate, the district is confident that Kingspan is the most suitable vendor.

A motion was made by D. Banks and seconded by M. Williams to recommend to the Board of Education adoption of the following resolution:

The Board of Education approves the twenty-five (25) year Power Purchase Agreement and Site Lease between the Bloomfield Public Schools and the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority (CEFIA) as subject to final review and recommendation by Shipman and Goodwin, Board of Education attorneys, and authorizes the Superintendent to execute the Agreement on its behalf.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4. A. 2016-2017 State Grant Reductions

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer shared that districts across the state are experiencing a mid-year reduction of state grants. A grant status report was shared with members of the Finance Committee.

The district has been officially notified of a reduction to the Alliance grant. There is potential to see additional reductions in other grants; however the district has not been notified officially.

In column three of the grant status report, the district shared a projected funding amount for the fiscal year 2017-2018 as well as the net loss in column four. Mr. Guzman reiterated that this fiscal year and the upcoming year will be extremely difficult in preparing as there are increases in expenditures and reductions in revenue.

Ms. Elisa Pierce added that as our district performance levels increase it eliminates the district from eligibility for many grants. Many federal grants target low performing schools, with low graduation rates and behavioral issues.

Ms. Pierce added that some grant reductions are expected, such as the After School Grant for Carmen Arace Intermediate and Middle School, as it has decreased 5% each year.

It was inquired if the district is pursuing other grant opportunities. The district is seeking a grant with Central Connecticut State University to support STEAM at the high school level by incorporating a Physics AP course.



4. B. 2017-2018 Budget Overview

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer, and Business Office staff are working to prepare a reasonable budget for 2017-2018. Mr. Guzman shared a chart displaying the major cost drivers for budget increases in 2017-2018.

The budget presentation to the Board of Education has been postponed to February 21, 2017 as a result of the difficult budget preparation process.

One of the major increases is Employee Benefits. This is directly related to the estimated cost, provided by the actuaries, to plan for OPEB. Other post-employment benefits (OPEB) refers to the benefits, other than pensions, that a state or local government employee receives as part of his or her package of retirement benefits.

Another major cost driver is tuitions. The anticipated total increase for 2017-2018 is 28%. The number of students receiving special education services has remained stable; however the tuition amounts are higher.

The district has met with Dr. Greg Florio, the Executive Director of the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) to ask for no increase in tuition rates. The district also met with the insurance agents to review budget mitigating strategies. The district also plans to meet with the Finance Chair of the Town Council.

Some main priorities are to maintain class sizes and to keep families and the community apprised of the budget. The district continues to struggle with implementing unfunded mandates in the upcoming fiscal budget year.

4. C. 2015-2016 District Audit

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer shared The Federal and State Single Audit Reports, dated June 30, 2016. In addition, he also distributed a copy of the complete audit booklet noting page 2, which shares the opinion that the district and town are in a good financial state.

In the Single Audit Reports, Mr. Guzman also noted pages 2, 3, and 7 which share the opinions of the auditors. Overall, the report shows that the district is in compliance with reports under the *Government Auditing Standards*.

5. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:53 p.m., a motion was made by D. Banks and seconded by Q. Johnson to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously.

M. Williams, Chair