

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 1, 2012

6:30 p.m.

Board members in attendance: Barbara Hartford (chairperson), Gwen Semmens, Steve Elsier, Donna Usavage

Administrators in attendance: Dr. Dion Betts, Dr. Karen Beerer, Rob Scoboria, Dave Szablowski, Johnna Weller

Public in attendance: 7

Mrs. Hartford called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

We pledged allegiance to the flag and observed a moment of silence.

There was no public comment.

Dr. Betts provided information on the number of students enrolled in cyber/charter school. In the 2011-12 school year, there are 185 students attending cyber or charter schools. In the 2010-11 school year there were 129 students attending, showing that the number of students attending cyber or charter schools. Board members asked a number of questions about the data.

Dr. Beerer introduced Mr. Chris Harrington from Bridges Virtual Education Services. She explained that the plan to move toward the implementation of cyber and hybrid courses is planned for three phases:

Phase 1 – Bringing cyber students back to Boyertown

Tonight: Presentation by Chris Harrington and what it can do for Boyertown

March 13th board meeting: Presentation by Chris Harrington, addressing questions from the board

Intermediate: Work with BAEA and Mr. Sultanik

March 27th board meeting: Board action item to work with Bridges Virtual Academy to get a cyber school initiated in Boyertown

Phase 2 – Hybrid learning

Part of Chris' services will include professional development so we can begin training teachers to build and teach in online settings.

We will convene a cohort of grade 10-12 teachers who are interested in developing hybrid courses.

Phase 3 – Teachers teaching the cyber online courses

Mr. Harrington presented how Bridges Virtual Education Services can get us started. This presentation is included.

The board members asked numerous questions. Board members asked Administration to generate a question and answer sheet for board members who were unable to attend.

Mrs. Hartford asked board members to list questions they have for the Administration on the budget. In turn, Dr. Betts asked the Board to identify what taxation rate is sustainable so we can develop and present a budget that is reasonable. Mrs. Hartford explained that a 0% tax increase is the only sustainable increase unless Administration identifies why we need a rise in the taxes.

Mr. Elsier asked the Administration to put together a one-page document to explain what is new.

Public Comment: Mrs. Curry asked if the presentation could be posted on the district website. Mrs. Semmens explained that the presentation Mr. Harrington gives to the board would be the better one to post.

Mrs. Hartford adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.