

BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Boyertown, Pennsylvania
www.boyertownasd.org

Finance Committee Meeting
April 5, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Mr. Landino, Finance Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the Education Center Board Room.

Members attending: Mr. Breece, Mr. Caso, Mrs. Dennin, Mr. Elsier, Mr. Landino, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Neiman, Mr. Stengle, Mrs. Usavage (6:10)

Administration: Dr. Faidley, Mr. Szablowski

Members of the Public: 4

Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and observed a moment of silence

Public comment

Linda Famous commented on gifted students, the elementary BEEP and PEP programs and the student needed supports.

The minutes from the committee meeting of March 15, 2016 were moved and seconded. The minutes were adopted unanimously.

Mr. Szablowski reviewed three scholarship requests recently received by the District. School Board approval is needed to establish scholarships. These scholarship requests were recommended by the committee to be added to the next School Board agenda for approval.

Kalyn Bartman, Elementary Special Education Director, and Marybeth Torchia, Secondary Special Education Director, presented the 2016-17 Special Education Budget, a copy is included with these minutes. Several facts about the District's special education population and programs were discussed. Mrs. Torchia proposed three special education needs and presented a justification for a Transition Coordinator, a Senior High School Learning Support Teacher and a Junior High Gifted Teacher, which would support both junior high schools. Mrs. Bartman proposed the addition of a Learning Support Teacher at Gilbertsville Elementary. The duties for each of these positions were presented with the consequences of not providing these supports to the special needs student population. Both Directors responded to questions from the committee members. A committee member requested a five-year summary of special education student populations and programs.

Mr. Szablowski updated the committee on the status of the 2015-2016 State Budget prior to reviewing the 2016-17 General Fund Budget. A copy of the presentation is included with these minutes. The State legislators sent a budget to the Governor on March 17 that included an

additional \$150 million for schools. The Governor refused to sign the bill nor did he veto the bill and on March 27, 2016 the bill became law by default. The Governor did however veto the fiscal bill that provides funding for the budget. There are many questions about how the additional funds will be distributed. The budget as presented this evening does include a 5% increase in State Basic Education funding. Without a tax increase, local and state revenues are projected to increase \$3.65 million. Expenditures are projected to increase \$5.552 million with wage increases (\$1.3 million), health insurance (\$420K), and retirement contribution (\$2.589 million) contributing the largest increases to expenses. Adding to these expenses is an increase of \$400K paid to private and special schools to provide needed special services the District's most needy special needs students. Mr. Szablowski discussed the personnel needs proposed by the special education directors and stated that the only personnel requests included in the budget are for the special education position proposed earlier in the meeting. However, Administration has reviewed the retirements and professional needs throughout the District and through reallocation, there will be a reduction of four (4) positions producing a net gain of 0 new teaching positions for 2016-2017. There was extensive discussion on the mandated PSERS contribution increases and the cost of healthcare, which is projected to increase 5% over the 15-16 year. In summary, Mr. Szablowski compared the projected revenue and the projected expenditure with the result producing a \$2,509,096 deficit. Realizing the District elected to limit tax increases to the Act 1 Index of 2.9%, which would produce an estimate \$1.587 million increase in revenue, the remaining deficit of \$922,096 would require additional reductions in expenditures. Other options to reduce the deficit were discussed. The use of one-time revenue such as fund balance could be considered but the long-term effect of utilizing non-recurring revenue was discussed at length.

The 2016-17 Food Service Budget was distributed and reviewed briefly. The budget is subject to the same expenditure increases of wages, healthcare and retirement expense. The budget does include a proposed increase in lunch prices at all levels.

Public Comment Period #2

Ruth Dierolf commented on the projected increase in health insurance expenses, the PSERS retirement contribution expense and the Food Service budget.

Mr. Landino announced the future meetings as follows:

April 12, 2016	Facilities Committee	Ed Center – Conf. Room A	6:00 p.m.
April 12, 2016	Board of School Directors	Ed Center - Board Room	7:00 p.m.
April 19, 2016	Finance Committee Meeting	Ed Center - Board Room	6:00 p.m.
April 19, 2016	Curriculum Committee	Ed Center – Conf. Room A	7:00 p.m.
April 26, 2016	Board Development Training	Ed Center - Board Room	6:15 p.m.
May 3, 2016	Curriculum Committee	Ed Center - Board Room	6:00 p.m.
May 10, 2016	Policy Review Committee	Ed Center – Conf. Room A	6:00 p.m.
May 10, 2016	Board of School Directors	Ed Center - Board Room	7:00 p.m.

Mr. Landino adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.