

BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Boyertown, Pennsylvania
www.boyertownasd.org
Finance Committee Meeting
Monday, January 13, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Hartford, Finance Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm in the Education Center Board Room.

Members attending: Mr. Caso, Dr. Christman, Mrs. Dennin, Mr. Elsier (6:10), Mrs. Hartford, Mr. Landino (5:40), Mrs. Neiman, Mr. Stengle (6:35), Mrs. Usavage

Administration: Dr. Faidley, Mr. Scoboria, Mr. Szablowski, Mr. Katch, Mrs. Woodard, Mr. Miller

Members of the Public: 11

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

No Public Comment.

The minutes from the committee meeting of 11/19/13 were moved by Dr. Christman, second by Mrs. Usavage. The minutes were adopted with 5 yeas and Mrs. Neiman abstaining.

Greg Herb, Chairman of the Boyertown Area Education Foundation (BAEF), introduced the entire BAEF Board in attendance and updated the committee on the activity of the Foundation. The BAEF plan to submit for approval to be eligible to receive EITC funds this year was reviewed. The plan to approach local businesses, individuals and alumni were discussed with the intent to raise funding to support the educational program within the Boyertown Area School District. Mr. Herb requested that the committee consider a loan to the BAEF in the amount of \$25,000 as “seed” money to help the foundation hire a part-time director to lead the BAEF. The duties of the director would include mainly approaching and contacting possible donors to contribute to the foundation, as well as grant writing and administrative duties in operating the BAEF. The loan would be repaid in two years. Committee members had several questions about the purpose of the foundation and how the donors would be approached. There were discussions about a financial plan, the companies that would be contacted, the administrative space required by the BAEF and the costs incurred in establishing the foundation. The issue of the BAEF using school district space brought up the subject of possible rent and the liability insurance issue of having a contracted person hired by a separate entity occupying school district space. Dr. Faidley agreed to investigate the liability insurance issue. The committee agreed to add the BAEF loan request to the January 28 Board agenda.

Dr. Faidley discussed the District’s bus service and the current contract with Quigley Bus Service, which expires at the end of June. Dr. Faidley asked that because of the long-term relationship with the local provider, that the committee authorize him to meet with Mr. Quigley to negotiate a new contract prior to the school district issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP). The committee discussed the pros and cons of negotiating versus the RFP, but agreed that if the negotiations produced “significant savings” the

RFP process might be avoided. There was discussion on the economies of scale, the special education transportation service agreements, which are separately quoted due to the specific nature of the services, and the obligation to our taxpayers to achieve the most savings for the transportation services, which account for a major portion of the District's budget. Administration hopes to have more information at the January 21 Finance Committee when the transportation budget is scheduled for discussion.

Mr. Scoboria, Mrs. Bartman and Mr. Hayes, special education directors for elementary and secondary respectively, presented the 2014-2015 Special Education budget, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. The presentation included the overview of the department and personnel, with details of the number of students served. The history and success of the special education initiatives created over the past few years were highlighted. These programs include the Autistic and Emotional Support programs that service the K-12 special needs population, the increase in co-teachers, and the Life Skills program. The budget includes the addition of one Life Skills teacher at JHE. Principal Andy Ruppert was on hand to assist with the justification of this position.

Mr. Katch and Mr. Szablowski presented an overview of the 2014-2015 Personnel Budget, which is included with these minutes. Wages for professional are estimated to increase by 4.5% with the balance of the employees budgeted at the BASD Act 1 index of 2.6%. There was discussion about which index to use in budgeting; the State Act 1 or the BASD adjusted Act 1. There was also a discussion about the formerly used index, the December greater Philadelphia CPI-U. The projected benefits were reviewed with the majority of the discussion focusing on the 26.4% increase in the PSERS retirement contribution rate increase that will add approximately \$2.18 million to the total benefit costs. Health care insurance and the possible impact of the Affordable Care Act were discussed, with the largest impact from ACA to be realized in the 2015-16 budget. Mr. Katch updated the committee on the current retirements and reviewed the needed personnel for 2014-2015, which includes the Life Skills teacher for special education and the addition of 1.5 "bubble" teachers at GES and NHUF to reduce class sizes. Mr. Szablowski discussed the Federal program budgets, which are a primarily used for personnel. The ACCESS funding was discussed at length. Due to a decrease in Medicaid and a new ACCESS administrator, the funds received through this program are projected to drop significantly. Currently there are 9 professionals and 15 para-professionals funded by ACCESS. Mr. Szablowski proposed that the new Life skills teacher be funded by ACCESS but that several of the Learning Support teachers used in the co-teaching initiative move to the General Fund source for their wages and benefits to conserve the ACCESS funds.

Mrs. Dierolf discussed the ACCESS program reduction in funding and commented on the transportation RFP.

Mrs. Hartford announced the following meetings:

January 13, 2014	Curriculum Committee, Education Center	Following Finance Mtg.
January 14, 2014	School Board Meeting, Education Center	7:00 p.m.
January 21, 2014	Facilities Committee, Education Center	6:00 p.m.
January 21, 2014	Finance Committee, Education Center	Following Facilities Mtg.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.