

BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 17, 2012  
EDUCATION CENTER  
6:30 P.M.

Board members in attendance: Mrs. Hartford (chairperson), Mrs. Semmens, Mrs. Dierolf, Dr. Christman (6:58 p.m.)

Administrators in attendance: Dr. Betts, Dr. Beerer, Mr. Scoboria, Mr. Szablowski, Mr. Katch, Dr. Weller

Member of the public in attendance: 8

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

Public Comment

Mr. Dave Shalaway commented on the importance of looking at the salaries and pensions of district employees. He suggested that we cannot sustain this type of expenditure. He recommended that the board creatively think about this issue.

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Betts explained that we need to have a modest tax increase this year and the next few years to sustain our programs and services to students. He also shared that the administrators would be looking at additional ways to cut costs over the next few weeks prior to the passing of the final budget. Finally, Dr. Betts shared that there needs to be change in the state Constitution to impact the retirement system. He expressed that we have held public forums to discuss unfunded mandates and will continue to find ways to talk to our legislators.

Discussion Items

**Budget Comparison 10-11 vs. 11-12:** Mr. Szablowski shared that the District revenue collection through March 31<sup>st</sup> is better than last year, having collected 84.5% of budgeted revenue versus last year's collection rate of 81%. Expenditures in the 11-12 exceed last year's expenditures due to March 2012 including three payroll periods versus April 2011 reporting 3 payrolls. The year to year comparison after April 2012 should reverse the timing issue.

**2012-13 Budget Update:** Mr. Szablowski provided a presentation with the same information that he shared at the April 10, 2012 board meeting to explain the current status of next year's budget. However, we received the March assessment report from each County's Assessment Office in the past week. Assessments rose in both counties and based on the current millage rate, our budget deficit has decreased. The reduction in millage is only effected by .03 mills. Mr.

Szablowski was asked to review the report illustrating the eleven year market value and tax rate history for the committee.

**Advertising Status:** We have received one proposal for advertising representation. Market Street Sports Group, the premier advertising and naming rights firm in this part of the State, responded via email to Mr. Szablowski, stating that they would not be interested in working with the District due to their awareness of the existing advertisements at both Bear Stadium and Memorial Stadium. Mr. Szablowski provided the committee with information on their company. He also explained that he has upcoming meetings to discuss the impact of advertising on areas like Bear Stadium which has been under the care, including sign advertising, by the American Legion. Committee members asked for Mr. Szablowski to provide historical information in board packets. Mr. Szablowski will begin a conversation with these groups.

**Food Service Budget Update:** After a review of the food service budget, Mr. Szablowski explained that the cost of lunches will rise \$.10 next year: \$2.30 for elementary lunches, \$2.55 for secondary lunch, \$4.05 for adult lunches and \$1.20 for student breakfast. The food service budget will be on the June board agenda for approval.

**Solicitor Appointment:** The Finance Committee reviewed the agreement for Fox Rothschild. Mr. Szablowski shared a survey that was compiled by another business manager relating to solicitor retainer amounts and hourly fees throughout Berks County. The information was shared with the Board members for comparative and informational purposes. Fox Rothschild's proposed retainer fee of \$23,625 and the hourly rate \$180 for issues considered outside the retainer have been frozen at last year's level. The Committee was in favor of putting this on Tuesday evening's agenda.

There was no committee discussion.

#### Public Comment

Mrs. Barb Bigler expressed that the Committee need to remember that students come first. PSERS is not just about teachers. Teachers have taken a 2.5 year freeze with no tuition reimbursement and this affects teachers' retirement. Mrs. Bigler expressed that she is disappointed in the lack of an administrative pay freeze.

Mrs. Hartford adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.