

NORTH MAC COMMUNITY UNIT #34
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
GIRARD MEDIA CENTER

Date: November 20, 2012

Time entered into meeting: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Girard Media Center

Members Present:

Steve Furman
Robyn Hays
Scott Etters
Charles Handy
Farley Cole

Members Absent:

James Matuska
Mark Sloman

Person taking and recording minutes: Marica Cullen

Also Present:

Kim Eldridge
Sherri Gerdanc
Eric Lancaster
Diane Moore
Becky Hampton
Jennifer McQuality
Lindsey DeFevers
Angela Norman
Connie Schroeder
Colean Smith
Randy Smith
Georgia Brewer
Dixie Gage
Anna Allen
Matt Allen
Fred Mulacek
Craig Fess
Gail Langheim
Kay Cameron
Alan Love
Jackie Jones-Myers
Madonna Wempen
Everett Cameron
David Spann

Charlie Handy opened the meeting with a powerpoint containing some basic information about the District's revenues and expenditures.

Finance Discussion

Randy Smith asked where specific shortfalls from the state were found. Were they all in general state aid and transportation? He also asked what was average teacher salary in state.

Jackie Myers wanted to know why we received less state aid over the three fiscal years and what could be cut on the salary schedule. She also asked about including federal TRS in teacher benefit report and insurance benefits of the contract for teachers and administrators.

Marica Cullen responded that the state requires federal TRS benefits be reported as part of teacher compensation if the teacher is paid from federal fund sources. The report on the webpage is the report we are required to submit.

Charlie Handy responded that the current contract pays 100% of the individual employee's health insurance costs.

Connie Schroeder asked that administrative costs be presented as well as teacher and support staff costs.

David Spann said that with a \$900,000 shortfall this budget year nothing should be off the table. The District should look to contract out transportation, look at teachers, etc.

Georgia Brewer, Fred Mulacek and Jackie Jones-Myers brought up questions of what are essential subjects versus "fluff" and stressed need to provide essential education.

Jackie Jones-Myers asked about the District's responsibility to pay TRS.

Steve Furman responded that the state is considering requiring Districts to assume the TRS payments the state is currently making for teachers. The cost shift might be a % increase each year over the next 17 or 18 years. Nothing has been decided, and pension costs remain an expenditure we can't predict making it difficult to budget.

Matt Allen suggested the District borrow to stay open.

Connie Schroeder brought up costs savings from earlier meetings including hiring cheaper administrative assistant for the superintendent, hire teachers in at lower salaries, look for ways to shift current staff from non-teaching positions to classrooms and not purchase sports uniforms to have more funds for staff salaries

Randy Smith responded that teachers have “a dog in the fight” but we must keep everything on the table for discussion, including sports and teachers because they are the highest % of the budget.

Fred Mulacek brought up several concerns about past spending on administrative salaries and the huge increases for administrator, superintendent and assistant superintendent salaries from 2010-2012.

Robyn Hays reminded Fred that both the prior superintendent and assistant superintendent, as well as two administrators were in the four-year retirement pipeline in addition to 12 teachers. Those four administrative salaries address much of the gain in administrative costs. The District has eliminated the assistant superintendent position and brought in a superintendent at a much lower salary to bring administrative costs down this year.

Time of adjournment: 6:32 p.m.

President

Secretary