

## **Finance Committee Meeting**

January 8, 2019, 2018, 6:00 PM  
Carlynton Junior-Senior High School  
Classroom 110

### **MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by Acting Superintendent Joseph Dimperio. Present for the meeting: Director of Finance and Fiscal Affairs Chris Juzwick, Board President Jim Schriver, Vice President Joe Appel, Treasurer Marissa Mendoza, and Directors Jude Frank, LeeAnne O'Brien, David Roussos, Christine Simcic, and Kelly Zaletski, as well as Solicitor Bill Andrews, Director of Special Education Rachel Andler, and Curriculum Coordinator Ed Mantich. The meeting got off to a late start due to a power outage at the junior-senior high school.

Dr. Andler distributed a hand out (Attachment I) and began a presentation to define the Special Education and Pupil Services program and associated mandates. She explained that Special Education falls into three (3) chapters, better defined under the Pennsylvania Public School Code. Chapter 14 comprises Special Education – students who are evaluated and given an IEP (Individualized Education Plan). For these students, accommodations are made for related services and specially designed instruction. Chapter 15 includes those students evaluated for a 504 Service Plan and require some related services and accommodations. Chapter 16 defines students who are evaluated as Gifted or GIEP (Gifted Individualized Education Plan). These students receive specially designed instruction above that offered in the regular classroom. All chapters come with required or obligatory costs.

Dr. Andler discussed the various programs that fall under Special Education and Pupil Services and provided numbers for students receiving specialized programming. The district is also responsible for costs of students who are outplaced. She explained the review process for students and informed the board of the teacher training in place to assure students are progressing. Dr. Andler said the district also contracts outside services such as occupational/physical therapy and personal care aides or nurses. She explained the funding process and how/when the district receives funding from the federal and state governments.

In closing, Dr. Andler said the district faces some unique challenges, one of which is a growing population who are experiencing adversity in trauma or mental health. This will require an increased use of counselors and outside services. The presentation concluded at 7:20 pm.

Mr. Juzwick began the finance committee segment of the meeting by distributing a draft of the 2019-2020 preliminary budget (Attachment II), explaining that the administrative team met to review, discuss, and explore areas to make cuts. The budget started at a \$2.8 million deficit; following the review, the team was able to decrease the deficit to \$1.566 million. This number includes raising property taxes to the index and the option to apply for referendum exceptions.

Some of the recommended cuts included delaying construction projects of about \$315,000 and delaying the parking lot project at the Glaser property.

Mr. Juzwick said the budget was generally rolled forward in the past; his goal is to take the time to use real numbers for better accuracy.

Director Roussos said, given a fund balance of approximately \$2.6 million, the district will need to make cuts with a sense of urgency. He suggested the budget should not be overestimated; it should hit the mark. He requested a listing of budget line items so the board can review and determine where cuts can be made and where they should not.

Mr. Juzwick said he will continue to present ideas to the board, adding that communication among the administrative team is good. Dr. Dimperio concurred, saying the process for building the budget is in an early phase with a goal to reach a realistic target.

Director Roussos stated that if the board continues to use a part of the fund balance to balance the budget, they will be forced to make definitive cuts within three years when the fund balance is depleted. He asked Mr. Juzwick and Dr. Dimperio to prepare a long-range plan.

President Schriver and Vice President Appel summed up the discussion by encouraging board members and the administrative team to strive for a solid, long-range plan.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm with the board moving into executive session.