

**Board of School Directors Committee Meetings Minutes****Wednesday, April 10, 2019**

Generated by Renai Cardillo on Wednesday, April 17, 2019

**Members present:** Members present: Courtney Barbieri, Nick Braccio, Janet Flisak, Matt Holliday, Ken Keith, Thomas Kwiatkowski, Stephen Nelson, Donna Scheuren

**Members absent:** William Brong

**Others present:** Elisa Ball, Frank Ball, Frank Gallagher, Christopher Hey, Herb Hummel, Brian Pawling, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, Sally Schufreider and Megan Zweiback.

**1. Finance Committee**

Mrs. Scheuren called the Finance Committee to order at 6:36 P.M.

**1.1 Health Insurance Review**

Dr. Gallagher welcomed everyone and introduced Assistant Superintendent & Director of Human Resources Dr. Hey to give an overview of the Health Insurance Review. Dr. Hey stated that this is a follow-up review from the November 2018 meeting with Independence Administrators. Dr. Hey introduced Mr. Herb Hummel from Kistler Tiffany Benefits and attendees from Independence Administrators.

Mr. Hummel addressed several issues regarding the current insurance program. He noted that Independence Administrators has done a complete overhaul of their organization including their leadership. They are working hard to be more transparent with the reporting of data to stakeholders. He reported that claims are now being processed in a more timely manner with 99% of all claims being finalized within 30 days. This figure is in alignment with the insurance standards. He also noted that Weekly claim reports are being submitted to the School District for review. Mr. Hummel noted that currently 81% of the members are using services and commented that these numbers are considerably low, translating to a very healthy population. A discussion on health and projection of usage occurred.

Mrs. Scheuren commented that while she appreciates the willingness to be more transparent she remains concerned about the new leadership, the processing of claims, and budgeting figures. Mrs. Scheuren also requested a reduction in the premium or a credit due to Independence Administrator's submission of incorrect data, during last year's budget season. Mr. Hummel assured Mrs. Scheuren that the reports are now being submitted on a weekly basis, and that the content is more detailed, therefore promoting more transparency. He also noted that premium figures are still being calculated and updates are being provided to Dr. Hey in a timely fashion.

Mrs. Barbieri asked if we could survey members regarding lifestyle habits, frequency of doctor visits and Dr. Hey replied that because of our collective bargaining arrangements, we would need to work with our unions for those permissions.

Dr. Hey summarized by saying that the current service being provided by Independence Administrators is excellent. The turnaround on claims has vastly improved, our members are healthy, and we are comparable with our sister schools. Dr. Hey expressed confidence in the continuation of quality service. Dr. Gallagher noted that he has met with the CEO of IA and is keeping the lines of communication open on all levels. It was also recommended that the School District keeps two months of premiums on reserve for an organization of our size.

Suzanne Stepanek of Schwenksville asked if we require members to take Smoking Cessation classes and inquired about neonatal care for pregnant mothers. Ms. Sally Schufreider of Independence Administrators responded that our collective bargaining units do not have those incentives. However, she noted that an app for expectant parents will be made available to subscribers shortly.

**1.2 Approve Fox Rothschild as District Solicitor for 2019-2020****1.3 Approve HIPAA Business Associate Agreement with Fox Rothschild for 2019-2020****1.5 Approve Sweet Stevens Katz & Williams as District Special Education Counsel for 2019-2020**

Mrs. Scheuren gave recognition to Mrs. Zweiback and her team, for the reduction of costs associated with the School District's use of legal counsel. Mr. Zweiback praised her staff noting that the Special Education Supervisors are extremely knowledgeable and are able to handle many of our issues themselves without the need to engage legal counsel.

The Committee agreed to move all them items to the full Board for action.

**1.4 Approve the 2019-2020 North Montco Technical Career Center Budget**

Dr. Gallagher noted that this is the recommended approval our portion of the annual N.M.T.C.C. budget. A discussion occurred on several line items, including grants. Our contribution is going down because of a decrease in enrollment. Mr. Kwiatkowski expressed concern in the decrease and questioned having Mrs. Pardovich from the N.M.T.C.C. return to address the decrease in enrollment and what the N.M.T.C.C. is doing to recruit more students.

Dr. Gallagher indicated that the decrease is still a reflection of our decision several years ago, to not send 9th grade students to N.M.T.C.C. As for recruiting, Dr. Gallagher noted that parents are often the hardest to convince that attendance is worthwhile. The SASD is introducing students to N.M.T.C.C. as early as 5<sup>th</sup> grade. In addition, we are also inviting high school teachers to spend time in the N.M.T.C.C. classrooms and shop environments, in an effort to assist them in guiding our students about making choices to attend N.M.T.C.C.

The Committee agreed to move forward for Board Action.

**1.6 Approve 2019-2020 Proposed Final Budget**

Director of Business Affairs, Mr. Pawling discussed the decreasing adjustment in the budget, noting that we are currently at a \$2.6M deficit. He noted that adjustments will continue until the final submission in June. He is confident that the numbers will continue to go down and will update the committee at the next meeting. It was announced that there will be an additional Finance Committee Meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Gallagher announced that the Curriculum Department under the direction of Dr. Kennedy-Reilly was recently awarded a \$49,999 grant for Teacher in the Workplace. This money will be used for the STEM program, including the Computer Science course at the Middle School level.

The Committee agreed to move forward for Board Action.

Mrs. Scheuren adjourned the Finance Committee meeting at 8:28 P.M.

**2. Education-Personnel Committee**

Mr. Kwiatkowski noted that the Middle School Course Revisions would be moved to the May meeting.

**3. Operations Committee****3.1 Approve Amendment No. 3 to Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement (GESA)**

In William Brong's absence, Mr. Ken Keith called the Operations Committee Meeting to order at 8:35 P.M.

Supervisor of Operations, Mr. Ball noted a recent occurrence at Indian Crest Middle School that necessitated the amendment to the GESA. He explained that there was an underground water line, serving the oil burner, and it was leaking. We were losing approximately 500 gallons of water a day, along with being unable to keep the pressure up to operate the boilers. It was suggested by Reynolds Construction that the most efficient and expeditious manner to correct the problem was to purchase a stand-alone propane boiler. Thus, the result of exercising an amendment to the GESA and funding through the Capital Reserve Account.

Mr. Keith asked if there was any damage to the equipment and Mr. Ball responded no, because we caught the issue before any damage occurred to the existing equipment. Mr. Braccio inquired about the availability of using natural gas and Mr. Ball responded that although the gas line is close to the school, it is not currently accessible for connection. Mr. Ball indicated that if and when the gas line comes within proximity to the school, we would look at options for connection.

The Committee agreed to move forward for Board Action.

### 3.2 Update on High School Stadium Turf

Mr. Keith announced that the only action being proposed this evening was the approval to issue an RFP in order to receive proposals and bids to repair and/or replace the high school stadium turf.

Mr. Ball noted that an independent consultant recently performed testing on the stadium turf in an effort to obtain answers for the questions that were posed at last month's Operations Committee Meeting. He also noted that the consultant was from an independent company that does testing, however they would not be associated with any of the companies that would be involved with the project. Mr. Ball elaborated that an infiltration test was performed and the results showed that the sub base is adequate. The stone is clean and there are four 6" drain pipes running down the side of the field. It was suggested that the 6" pipe be replaced with a larger 12" pipe in an effort to carry water more water away and prevent future bubbling of the turf.

As requested a G-MAX test was conducted. It was determined that there are several areas of the turf that are harder than the specification standard. The hardness could be rectified by adding fill, however because the turf is worn, simply adding fill is not an option. Patching the turf is a possibility, but consideration should be taken as seaming a turf field could create additional problems. Overall the G-MAX field inspection report was acceptable and meets minimal standards.

Mr. Pawling stated that funds are available through the capital reserve fund for replacement of the turf field.

Mr. Kwiatkowski commented that he would like to see how this turf is being used as well as how we are protecting it. Dr. Gallagher responded that he would contact Athletic Director Dennis Stanton to obtain field use information.

Dr. Gallagher noted that a special meeting would be held prior to the May 8<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting to discuss and review the bids.

A member of the public, Suzanne Stepanek asked even though the state does not require the G-MAX test, knowing the results, does this set the School District up for additional liability in the event of an accident? Dr. Gallagher noted that he will investigate that concern.

The Committee agreed to approve the RFP process and move forward for Board action.

Mr. Ken Keith adjourned the Operations Committee meeting at 9:26 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian R. Pawling  
Board Secretary