



Board of Education Finance Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 28, 2009
4:00 p.m.

Present: Collie Hooper-Yan, Bill Tuinier, Greg Goyert, Dena Dardzinski, Tony Krukowski

A long list of issues related to the financial status of the district was discussed at great length and in great detail. These issues included the current operations budget as well as bond and sinking fund projects (current and future). A description and summary of the items discussed is listed below.

2009 – 2010 Budget

- a. Freeze - With the recent news of a likely cut in the State of Michigan foundation grant reported to be \$218 (approximately \$400,000 for our district), the administration has directed all building administrators to “freeze” every expenditure possible. Understandably, this has created some “push back” from the affected building leaders as plans had already been made for educational improvements and enhancements. The critical importance of continual “internal” communication among school district staff was highlighted as the GITS district struggles with unprecedented financial challenges.

Bond/Sinking Fund Projects

- a. Irrigation System - The irrigation proposal from French Associates with discussed. The choices to the BOE are as follows. The board could elect to “pause” (not discard) the investigation at this time for the reasons outlined above and in consideration of the possibility of other higher priority bond/sinking fund projects. The board could ask French Associates to provide an “approximate” specifications estimate for \$2940. Finally, the board could direct French Associates to provide a “comprehensive” specifications estimate for approximately \$15,000. The Finance Subcommittee will recommend to the full board to “pause” the investigation at this time and suggested reconsidering the project following the millage renewal election in August, 2010.
- b. Kiddie Kampus/Bus Garage - The committee was updated regarding ongoing issues related to the bus garage paving project and Kiddie Kampus. It was suggested that all agreements, requests, and “understandings” with the owner and tenant be committed to writing and reviewed by legal counsel if appropriate.
- c. GIHS Fire Proofing - The results of the Fire Marshall’s inspection and the recommendation from French Associates were discussed. The safest and most cost-efficient resolution is for the district to proceed with the installation of two sets of fire doors (approximately \$20,000 from bond/sinking funds) and the committee will make this recommendation to the full board.
- d. Sound System - The current status of the potential upgrade to the board room AV system was discussed. Due to incomplete information from one of the vendors, the committee agreed with Superintendent Dardzinski’s recommendation to “pause” the evaluation at this time. When further information becomes available, and following Dena’s investigation of potential curricular enhancements with local film industry representatives, the evaluation will continue.

Transportation - Issues surrounding the revised general education transportation program were discussed. The process continues to improve as all individuals involved become more familiar and comfortable with the changes.

Potential Sinking Fund Projects - The French Associates proposal (\$3272) for investigation of potential, future sinking fund projects was discussed at length. The committee, together with the superintendent and business manager, support this type of proactive investigation and will make this recommendation to the full board. It was felt that investments that support preventative maintenance, even in the current financial circumstances, are in the best interest of the students of Grosse Ile.

Millage Election - The August 2010 millage renewal request process was discussed. More concrete “next steps” will be discussed with the full board.

Miscellaneous

- a. Lighting between Middle and High Schools - Several requests have been made to provide lighting on the path from the GIHS to the GIMS. Tony is currently in discussions with DTE and an estimate is anticipated in the near future.
- b. GIHS Furniture for Technology - Jim Stewart and Terry Flint have requested “switching out” some funds originally intended for furniture at GIHS and, instead, purchasing additional technology equipment. This request will be further evaluated by the administration and brought back to the board for consideration at a later date.
- c. Parke Lane Dumpsters - Proposals for dumpster screens at PL Elementary were reviewed. Tony recommended proceeding with the bid from Liparoto (\$7550-\$8750). The committee was divided about whether or not to proceed. On the one hand, an argument to “pause” consideration of this expenditure until a priority list could be reviewed was made. On the other hand, the value of “pride in appearance” was forwarded and it was noted that these dumpsters were the only dumpsters on the entire island without some type of screening or enclosure. The committee asked the administration to provide a current sinking/bond fund priority list for the next work session at which time the full board can render a decision.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm.

The next meeting of the Finance Subcommittee is scheduled for Monday, November 2nd at 4pm.