



FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (Public)

Thursday, August 29, 2024

8:00 a.m.

Committee Members: Michele Mencer, Chair

Dr. Camille Cerciello, Ellen De Pinto, Justina Ryan

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent

Jason Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary

Don Race, Facilities Manager

1. 2024-25 Capital Projects - Schools are ready to go for opening

- a. The RMS nurse office, roof, and HVAC will be ready by the first day of school. The main office will still be partially under construction when students return. It is the long lead times on furniture that has delayed the project.
- b. IT Switch & Access Point Project - Adding battery back ups and IT switches and access points for wifi.
- c. First Responder Radio Enhancement - 90% complete, equipment is in and they are working on getting the antennas out to the roof and programming will begin very soon.
- d. WHS Art Room (October 3) - furniture is set to be installed on October 3rd while school is closed for the holiday.

2. Referendum / Expiring Debt -

Proposed Detailed Action Steps / Timelines - Goal is to have a September 2025 referendum. The architects need Board approved resolution at the end of January in order to meet timeline requirements. We want to make sure every stakeholder is as involved as possible throughout the process. Administrators will put together a list of capital projects with input from staff. The architects will do a walkthrough with an engineer and meet with administrators to create a comprehensive plan and give us tentative costs. Leadership will begin meeting with the HSA, RTEA, Township of Readington and other major stakeholders to get their input. The architect will present the proposed capital projects to the Finance Committee in November. Bond Counsel will do a public presentation on November 12th explaining the referendum and expiring debt with a Q&A. There will then be an open public community forum with bond counsel and architects to present the final projects. The meeting will be later in November with date still to be determined. The Finance Committee will further discuss the projects in detail in December with a goal of finalizing the projects for referendum by early January.

3. Solar Expansion Proposal

The finance committee received an update on the solar expansion proposal. We discussed information regarding fixed rate vs escalating rate and reviewed some decisions coming up for our next committee meeting.

4. Electric School Bus Grant

The committee reviewed the plan for the new electric bus that has been ordered. We reviewed the RMS bus lot which is in an optimal location because there is not a

tremendous risk to students or buildings. The electric box is there already for our engine warmers for our current fleet for the colder weather. The first electric vehicle charger will be right next to that and will make sure it follows the protocols that fire department requires. The bus will be at the end of the lot leaving a vacant spot next to the bus. Mr. Lopes provided information to the committees to ensure we protect our fleet and consider all available safety measures including an easily accessible shut off switch to avoid any delay in extinguishing the vehicle and possibly a monitoring system and sprinklers. These additional costs have yet to be determined.

There was a recent EV planning meeting that led to a great discussion of safety measure for all lithium ion battery equipment and their disposal. There will be a formal meeting with OEM and fire department in September to make sure we are prepared for the new vehicle.

5. NJDA Cafeteria Audit / Corrective Action Plan - audit revealed that we need to spend money in our cafeteria. We have remediated and spent money already and an action plan is in place.

6. Parent Insurance Appeal - The committee discussed an insurance matter involving a title 59 appeal.

7. Legal Matter - Dr. Hart provided information regarding a legal matter.

8. PILOT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) - Attachments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 tabled due to time constraints

9. OPRA Legal Alert- tabled due to time constraints.

Finance Agenda Items / Bill List - NJDA cafeteria audit corrective action plan, police shared services agreement.

Next meeting has yet to be determined. An email will be sent to committee to schedule it.