

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
September 12, 2023
Administration Center Board Room and Via Zoom
5:30 PM**

MINUTES

- I. The Chairperson,** Rebecca Bear, called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary, Patricia Rosado called the roll.
- II. Board Committee Members Present:** George Andrews, Rebecca Bear, Wayne Rohner and Richard Schlameuss.
- III. School Personnel Present:** Peter Bard, Edwin Malave, Amy Polmounter, William Riker, Patricia Rosado, Matt Triolo, and Bill Vitulli.
- School Personnel via Zoom:** None.
- IV. Community Member In Person:** Larry Dymond.
- Community Member via Zoom:** Jacob Morris.
- V. Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE:

Motion was made by George Andrews to approve the agenda for September 12, 2023, and with members of the Committee reserving the right to add to the agenda and take further action in the best interest of the district. Motion was seconded by Richard Schlameuss.

Per Mr. Bard's requested, a motion was made by Richard Schlameuss to add to the agenda the Fracking Excise Tax Resolution, which was prepared by Attorney Chris Brown. Motion was seconded by George Andrews and carried unanimously, 4-0.

The amended agenda was carried unanimously, 4-0

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE:

Motion was made by Richard Schlameuss to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2023, Finance Committee meeting. Motion was seconded by George Andrews and carried unanimously, 4-0.

VI. Items for Approval:

- a. Edmentum - Reading Eggs Renewal - \$10,976.00
Mrs. Bear said I assuming that the first item on the agenda is something that we have been using and will be using again. Dr. Vitulli said yes. This is for elementary students.
- b. Zaner-Bloser - Superkids Reading Program additional materials - \$5,894.90
Dr. Vitulli said additional material is needed for 2nd graders due to an explosion in numbers. Mrs. Bear said it is odd when just a certain grade has an influx of students. Hopefully, they are all coming in from Cyber Charter School. Mr. Schlameuss asked is this an influx of students or is this a natural progression from a big kindergarten class to a first grade class to a big second grade class. Dr. Riker said I would say it is an influx of students. Mr. Schlameuss said it is interesting that the influx is just in second grade. We had the pandemic so where did the children go last year. Dr. Riker said we did some analysis of this data with the Board at another date. We will do a colored pie chart that will show where every new student came into the district.
- c. Approve the purchase of new cafeteria tables to replace broken ones for J.M. Hill in the amount of \$8,850.00 (paid out of Cafeteria fund)
Mr. Bard said this expense will be paid out of the Cafeteria Fund. This item will not impact the General Fund. Mr. Andrews asked how many tables are being replaced. Mr. Rohner asked if the tables are 16 seaters. Mr. Bard said the old tables are 16 seaters; therefore, we are replacing them with the same ones. They are replacing five tables. Mr. Andrews asked if they cost \$1,600 each. Mr. Bard said yes, they do.
- d. Approve the purchase of outdoor classroom furniture at the HS South in the amount of \$14,676.77 from SchoolFix - ESSER III
Mr. Bard said this quote needs to be revised to \$16,750.83. I received this updated quote this afternoon. This is an increase of \$2,701.06. The initial quote did not include shipping because School Fix Catalog, which was selected as the company to buy the furniture from, did no quote us a shipping cost. We now had to update the amount to include the shipping cost. This will be paid by ESSER III Fund. Mr. Triolo and Ms. Polmouter are here tonight to answer any questions you may have. Mrs. Bear asked where is the outdoor furniture going. Mr. Triolo said the ATSI Committee asked us to explore outside classrooms. We started looking over the possibility and Mr. Romagno said to us that there is a space in the back of the building by the Art Doors. If you go up the grass, where once was a walkway, there is a spot that is tree covered. We want to make that a classroom. You are outside and there is plenty of stuff to show the kids how to make learning more fun. We have a lot of classes that take their kids outside, i.e. Science classes will take the kids out to the Creek. They can then come back to the outdoor classroom. There is a lot of good uses for this class. We have the ATSI Committee that wants to make this classroom possible. Mr. Romagno found us a great space for this outdoor classroom. We merged the two spaces together and

came up with different furniture and supplies that we would like to purchase to make this happened. This is the reason for using being here tonight. Mrs. Bear said I would love to hear later on how well they are learning outside versus indoors. Mr. Rohner said I would encourage outdoor classrooms.

e. Fracking Excise Tax Resolution

Mrs. Bear said the next item was placed on the agenda so that a discussion can be had about a fracking resolution in order for the legislators to implement a fracking tax which would benefit education. Mr. Schlameuss said I have not seen that letter but I can imagine that the idea behind it is that we suggest that the legislators develop a tax for fracking that goes to the school districts. I believe that we are one of the few states that do fracking that do not have an excise tax. Mr. Rohner said that is correct. Mr. Bard said the idea behind the resolution is to send it to our local legislators, PSBA and PASBO to urge them to circulate the resolution to all of the legislators urging them to place a severance tax on all of the natural gas drilling in order for the money to fund public education in the Commonwealth. That is due to the unconstitutional way public education gets funded.

VII. Items for Discussion:

a. Consideration of the date change for the next Finance Committee Meeting from October 9th, 2023, to October 10th, 2023 due to Columbus Day.

Mrs. Bear said she was going to ask for a similar motion because parent/teacher conferences are being held on October 9th. The consideration is for the Finance Committee meeting be changed from October 9th to October 10th due to Columbus Day and parent-teacher conferences. Mr. Bard said the schools are opened that day, so I was not sure if you want to change it. Mrs. Bear said the schools are not opened. The students are not in. Mr. Bard said when I placed this item on the agenda, I did not realize that the staff was in on that day. Mrs. Bear said I am glad that you brought it up because it is parent-teacher/parent conferences and if we change the date, I will not have to rush back from North to Central Administration. I am that mom that meets with every teacher. I am okay with this change. Mr. Schlameuss said I am okay with leaving the date as is or changing it. Mr. Andrews and Mr. Rohner said they are fine with making the change. Mr. Bard said we will advertise the change.

VIII. Recommendations by the Property & Facilities Committee (Pending Final Approval by Property & Facilities Committee)

Mrs. Bear asked if all of the following items were agreed upon by the Property & Facilities Committee. Dr. Riker said yes, they were.

- a. Smithfield Elementary Office Pass Through Window - A.G. Mauro \$9,500.00 (Capital Budget Item)
- b. District Sensory Room Doors - A.G. Mauro \$13,200.00 (ACCESS Funded)
- c. Software Licenses for Wireless Door Locks - Keystone Fire and Security \$5,798.00 (ACCESS Funded)

- d. Main Door Intercom System - Keystone Fire and Security \$14,429.00 (Capital Budget Item)
Mrs. Bear asked is this intercom system for all schools or just one. Mr. Andrews said I don't remember talking about this item. Dr. Riker said it is for three elementary schools. Mr. Andrews said was this for the front door system. Dr. Riker said yes and it was discussed at the Property/Facilities Committee meeting. Mr. Andrews said I do not remember talking about this in particular. Dr. Riker said the document lists the three elementary schools.
- e. Northeast Site Contractors - Smithfield SinkHole - Invoice #1 - \$8,713.01
- f. Current Project List
Dr. Riker said, for your information, the Property & Facilities Committee discussed that the Facilities Department is looking to provide the 2024 projects at the October meeting or at the latest the November meeting. The Finance Committee can expect to see their recommendations for what projects they would be looking to move forward and getting some costs. Mr. Andrews said they discussed the South Stadium. Dr. Riker said they are looking to renovate the South Stadium. We also talked about the bus lounge. Mr. Andrews said I believe the bus lounge is more critical. We will talk about that at the Property & Facilities Committee. Dr. Riker said the Property & Facilities Committee wanted us to really move quickly on that. Mr. Miller is working hard to get some information in order to bring back information to the Property & Facilities Committee next month. Mr. Andrews said wasn't it discussed that we do not want the driver sitting with the garage door open. Mrs. Bear said hopefully it does not get too cold this winter.

IX. Recommendations by the Education Programs & Resources Committee

None

X. Public Participation - Limited to Items of Discussion

None

XI. Advisory Recommendations for Consideration by the Board of Education

1.

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE:

Motion was made by Wayne Rohner to recommend that the Board consider for approval the following items. Motion was seconded by George Andrews and carried unanimously, 4-0.

- a. Edmentum - Reading Eggs Renewal - \$10,976.00
- b. Zaner-Bloser - Superkids Reading Program additional materials - \$5,894.90
- c. Approve the purchase of new cafeteria tables to replace broken ones for J.M. Hill in the amount of \$8,850.00 (paid out of Cafeteria fund)
- d. Approve the purchase of outdoor classroom furniture at the HS South in the amount of \$16,750.83 from SchoolFix - ESSER III
- e. Fracking Excise Tax Resolution

2.

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE:

Motion was made by Wayne Rohner to reschedule the October 9, 2023 Finance Committee meeting to October 10, 2023. Motion was seconded by Richard Schlameuss and carried unanimously, 4-0.

3.

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE:

Motion was made by Richard Schlameuss to recommend that the Board consider for approval the following items, which were recommended by the Property/Facilities Committee. Motion was seconded by George Andrews and carried unanimously, 4-0.

- a. Smithfield Elementary Office Pass Through Window - A.G. Mauro \$9,500.00 (Capital Budget Item)
- b. District Sensory Room Doors - A.G. Mauro \$13,200.00 (ACCESS Funded)
- c. Software Licenses for Wireless Door Locks - Keystone Fire and Security \$5,798.00 (ACCESS Funded)
- d. Main Door Intercom System - Keystone Fire and Security \$14,429.00 (Capital Budget Item)
- e. Northeast Site Contractors - Smithfield SinkHole - Invoice #1 - \$8,713.01

XII. Next Meeting - October 10, 2023, at 5:30 PM in the Board Room and via Zoom.

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE:

Motion was made by Richard Schlameuss to adjourn. Motion was seconded by George Andrews and carried unanimously, 4-0.

XIII. Adjournment: 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia L. Rosado
Board Secretary