

**Rice Lake Area School District
BOE Finance Committee
Thursday, May 7, 2020
8:30 AM**

MINUTES

1. **Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. **Roll Call:** **Present:** Doug Kucko, Gary Spear, Steve Bowman, Joshua Estreen
 Others Present: Patrick Blackaller, Randy Drost, Tim Lipke, Kurt Reinhold, Marty Helgeson, Callie Hackel, Sara Hames
 Absent: None
3. **Statement of Notice:** Patrick Blackaller announced that notice of the meeting was communicated by public notice as required by 19.84 of WI Statutes.
4. **April 9, 2020 Minutes:** Gary Spear and Steve Bowman motioned to approve the April 9, 2020 BOE Finance Committee meeting minutes. All present voting yes. Motion approved.
5. **High School Athletic Budget:** Tim Lipke presented a 2020-21 proposal on the high school athletic budget. The athletic budget has many unknowns due to team size and if teams qualify for state, uniform needs and Booster Club reimbursements. Mr. Bowman was impressed with the amount the Booster Club contributes each year. Mr. Spear asked if some documentation should be in place to state that teams going to state could stay to finish the tournament. The committee agreed to establish the budget at \$220,000 for the 2020-21 school year.
6. **Summer Food Service Program:** Callie Hackel presented information on the summer Food Service program. There are many variables including if the district will provide meals to the Boys and Girls Club and how many families will sign up for a summer food service program. The Backpack program will continue to provide meals until June 5, 2020. Food Service staff are willing to help provide meals throughout the summer. Anyone that would be working would get additional pay. The committee is interested in seeing the food program to continue through the summer.
7. **School Counselor Position:** Mr. Drost recommends bringing on a new School Counselor at the high school level. The district will utilize the strengths of the school counseling team to plan social emotional learning, etc. When the Director of Curriculum and Instruction is hired, they will also be working closely with the team. This will be a 9/12 position. Sue Strouf and the Director of Curriculum & Instruction will be involved in ACP (Academic and Career Planning) and SEL (Social Emotional Learning). This will remain as one position addition for the 2020-21 school year.

8. **OPEB Trustee Selection:** Mr. Blackaller suggested that Steve Bowman, Doug Kucko and Joshua Estreen be selected as the OPEB Trustees. Gary Spear and Steve Bowman motioned to select Steve Bowman, Doug Kucko and Joshua Estreen as the OPEB Trustees. All present voting yes. Motion approved.
9. **OPEB:** Mr. Bowman stated that OPEB is continuing to function as expected. Mr. Blackaller proposed increasing the contribution for 2020-21. Steve Bowman motioned to contribute the maximum allowable contribution amount not to exceed \$350,000.00. The final contribution amount will be determined by the actuarial study. Doug Kucko seconded the motion. All present voting yes. Motion approved.
10. **Special Education Bus:** The white special education bus needs to be replaced. Sue Strouf would like to use Special Education funds to purchase a new bus. Mr. Blackaller would like to obtain pricing and possibly have some district funds added. This also dictates the use of the shuttle as Special Education use only when Special Education funds are used.
11. **Technology Purchases:** Marty Helgeson presented on technology needs based on the current COVID-19 situation so that the district is prepared for distance learning now and in the future. He would like to get more devices available to students and in the classroom for teachers. Natalie Springer and Joann Walker may use some Title I funds to have dedicated carts in each classroom to increase accessibility to devices. Almost all of the cost will be using Title I funds already available to the district. This will free up some funds for devices that need to be replaced. The Middle School would like to get the devices into the classroom to reduce going to get devices and sharing carts. The High School is currently the biggest challenge because of the way students travel to classes and the need to outfit several sections of each class subject to have a sufficient number of devices available. The best solution for the High School is checking out devices to each student. Based on current student numbers, 295 Chromebooks would need to be added with district funds. Total cost of this project is about \$272,000.00. \$150,000.00 would exceed current budgets. Students using personal devices in the classroom poses problems with what content is on the personal device. Mr. Bowman and Mr. Drost suggests that we purchase the devices right now and directed Mr. Helgeson to place the order.
12. **Budget Update:** Mr. Blackaller spoke with both the WASBO director, and WASPA director regarding the current state budget resulting from the COVID 19 impact. Mr. Blackaller provided projections regarding the potential budget deficit due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
13. **Health Plan Update:** Sara Hames and Patrick Blackaller reviewed the changes to the plan design going into effect July 1, 2020. Staff will be expected to review a Brainshark presentation and complete a quiz which must be passed by the adult participant. All adult plan participants within the family must view the Brainshark presentation and pass the quiz or be subject to an increased premium cost of \$100/ family and \$50/single plan. Mr. Blackaller will work with Payroll to identify any adult plan members 18 years and older as of July 1, 2020.

14. Other: Mr. Drost mentioned that the Booster Club is paying for the high school senior graduating class banners at a cost of around \$6,000.00 for 170 seniors to be posted on the chain-link fence on Wisconsin Avenue.

Solar Panel Presentation: Kurt Reinhold presented a proposal to use solar panels at Tainter, Middle School, High School and possibly another location. Solar systems can also be included into lesson plans for teachers. An investor would purchase the DC side of the system and the district would pay the investor an annual payment for the facilities. After six years, the district can purchase the system for about half of the original cost and then take full advantage of the electrical savings. Mr. Reinhold can assist the school district in getting grants to cover all costs except \$5,000-\$10,000. The district can get tax sponsors locally or from interested sponsors around the state. The Finance Committee recommends moving forward with finding tax sponsors.

Professional Development for Hourly Employees: Mr. Spear is wondering if someone is tracking professional development for hourly employees and wondering about repercussions of not completing professional development during the COVID-19 school closure. Mr. Blackaller indicated that he was working with his staff directly to make sure they are completing the training, however there are a few staff members that have not completed the training.

Teacher Contract Letters: Mr. Bowman questioned if teachers are able to work over the summer. Mr. Blackaller advised that we would need to clarify teacher schedules and identify what portions of staff days would be kept for later work. It was discussed that staff would likely voluntarily work to prepare for the coming school year if a virtual start was needed. Mr. Bowman wanted to make sure the school start date is flexible in the teacher contracts and to possibly add days to the school year if needed due to the COVID-19 closure. The school year schedule and start date will be discussed more at future meetings.

15. Review and Approval of Bills: The committee reviewed the bills. Steve Bowman and Joshua Estreen motioned for approval. All present voting yes. Motion approved.

16. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

17. Adjourn: Doug Kucko and Gary Spear motioned to adjourn the meeting. All present voting yes. Meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Patrick Blackaller.