

**Rice Lake Area School District
BOE Finance Committee
Thursday, June 4, 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
 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. **May 7, 2020 Minutes:** Doug Kucko and Steve Bowman motioned to approve the May 7, 2020 BOE Finance Committee meeting minutes. All present voting yes. Motion approved.
5. **Transportation Contract:** The Rice Lake Bus Service would like to be paid two-thirds of what they would have received from the district during the COVID-19 closure. They have not billed the district during the closure. The Rice Lake Bus Service would like to settle for a 1% increase for the 2020-21 school year. The Rice Lake Bus Service will be providing additional information to support the amount requested before moving forward.
6. **Solar Project Update:** Mr. Blackaller provided costing information on the solar project. During the first six-year period, the project would be owned by a private investor and the district would benefit from the utility savings and the private business would be able to take advantage of the depreciation and tax credits. This would allow the school district to receive a system at an acquired cost approximately \$1.75 million but pay only around \$700,000 at the end of six years. The system has an anticipated 40-year life span. The annual utility savings is projected to be about \$67,000 a year. The committee would like to proceed with the updated version of the solar project, construction on this project would not start until next spring, however the commitment on the project and the project would be bid in the late summer or early fall of this year to ensure that we receive the tax credits for the project.
7. **Support Staff Professional Development:** Mr. Blackaller reviewed the support staff professional development data. Building principals have identified and contacted any staff that still need to complete professional development.
8. **Budget Update:** Mr. Blackaller presented a budget update for the 2020-21 school year. The Montessori program was discussed, including the small number of enrollment for 4K and Kindergarten students. Mr. Bowman would like to continue the Montessori for one

more year to see if the enrollment numbers increase due to the change in location from Red Cedar to Tainter.

9. **Health Plan Update:** Mr. Blackaller presented an update on the health plan including the Brainshark quiz. Many employees have already completed the Brainshark quiz.
10. **Pool Update:** A grant discussed with the committee recently provided through the stimulus program is not available to recreation facilities. The community is wondering when the existing pool will re-open. The City would like to consider reopening and the school district will provide a reopening plan to the City with the goal of following county, state and federal guidelines, as best we can.
11. **Other:**
Special Education Bus Replacement: Mr. Blackaller requested pricing from three vendors to replace the white special education bus and is waiting to hear back from the third vendor. The committee recommends moving forward with replacing the white special education bus with the option that best fits the district's needs.

COVID-19: The committee discussed some scenarios for what school may look like this fall related to COVID-19 as well as paying staff and possible layoffs. Mr. Blackaller is in contact with the liability insurance company. The committee recommended submitting the waiver for starting the school year early if needed.
12. **Review and Approval of Bills:** The committee reviewed the bills. Gary Spear and Doug Kucko motioned for approval. All present voting yes. Motion approved.
13. **Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.
14. **Adjourn:** Joshua Estreen and Steve Bowman motioned to adjourn the meeting. All present voting yes. Meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Patrick Blackaller.