



PLYMOUTH-CANTON
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
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Finance & Operations Committee

August 18, 2022

MINUTES

Meeting called to order by Committee Chair: Brooks 5:00 p.m.

Board of Ed members present: Brooks, Christenson (Kehoe absent)

District staff present: Piesz, Gruszczynski, Brandon, Jory

Citizen Representatives present: Paton, Roderique **Other Citizen(s):** none

Also in attendance: Sheldon Stewart and Angela Reynolds from Durham
Transportation

Public Comments - none.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – August 4, 2022 - approved.

Transportation Update - Sheldon Stewart and Angela Reynolds from Durham Transportation are here to give us an update on their staffing. At this time there are 94 drivers. Full staffing will be at 107, plus 10 subs. We are currently 23 drivers short of that goal. We look at the plan that Durham is implementing to expedite the hiring pipeline activity. They have increased available training hours to 8 hours per day, in evenings, and on weekends. They have also increased the number of trainers from 6 to 9, which will allow them to accommodate 27 trainees per week. They are adding incentives to trainees if they complete their CDL requirements. There are 23 potential drivers in the pipeline. Ms. Reynolds has tried to implement ways to streamline each step of the hiring process. Mr. Stewart will be able to confirm on Tuesday, 8/23/22 how many drivers we have, as that is when each driver chooses their routes (route picks). Some of the drivers coming in are drivers from Ms. Reynolds last district, so they do have experience and credentials. Mr. Stewart is also working with some third party companies to try to secure drivers to drive until we have coverage.

Ms. Christenson has real concerns about these numbers because school starts so soon. Mr. Gruszczynski asks for assurance that there will not be issues with route rotation, cancellations, etc., and that the people we are signing up are experienced, and that the expedited training they are doing is good quality training focused on safety, not rushed, etc.

Mr. Brooks asked if a student or family opts out, and they need transportation for one day due to a certain circumstance, will they be left at the bus stop? Mr.

Gruszczynski answers to say that no student would be left behind at the bus stop, but there would be a process to follow that will include contacting the building principal and the parents to submit a request to provide transportation services to that student.

Durham representatives will attend the Board Meeting on Tuesday August 23rd to give a staffing update and answer Board questions. They will have updated numbers then and should give us a clearer picture of where we are. Parents should have routing information by the end of next week

Purchase of TV Equipment - Mr. Brandon introduces the subject of purchasing new equipment to record, stream, and broadcast district content. At this time our Marketing and Communications Department is capturing way more content than in the past. We want to join many other outlets by implementing a fully comprehensive digital channel called P-CCS TV. We could then stream and produce content across many platforms. This channel will offer our community the ability to watch content both live, and on demand. This will include audio and video content from our schools, programs, extracurricular activities, and events.

In the meeting materials, you will see three quotes that cover these three parts of the whole system. Installation, projection, and interface is one part, second is for cameras, system, and controls, and the third part is for Cablecast, which is a program that provides everything we need to drive P-CCS TV. This resolution gives us 5 years of full support and gives us the ability to live stream from anywhere. The company that has provided this comprehensive quote is called Filmtools. There is nowhere else that can offer all the components we need in one place. Filmtools has everything in stock, so we will not have delays in receiving the equipment or in support.

Member Christenson shares that she is very excited about this project, and the flexibility that it will offer. She wonders if there is a way to involve students with the use of the new equipment. The Communications Department oversees the radio station, so they plan on working closely with the radio station students, and include them in this channel. Mr. Roderique asks if content recorded on phones can be also uploaded into this system, Mr. Brandon says it can.

The cost of this is included in the 2022-2023 Communications Department operating budget.

Member Brooks feels we need to keep up with technology. He asks if the new system will allow us to incorporate ZOOM input into live Board Meetings. Mr. Brandon believes we will be able to project something coming in via Zoom, but he will check with the vendor to verify.

Ms. Piesz concludes by telling the committee that per district Purchasing Policy, based on the cost, this should be publically bid. However, this is a unique situation because we have not been able to locate a similar comprehensive package, nor state bid. If we had to bid it would be very complex because we would need to break the package into three pieces. The cost of each piece of the package individually falls below the state bidding threshold. Also, if we were to be able to locate comparable equipment we could have supply chain issues, whereas this vendor has the equipment readily available. Mr. Brandon discusses the comprehensive nature of this solution, including support.

Ms. Piesz recommends that this be presented for two readings before the board so that all Board Members and community members can have ample time to review and ask any questions.

Adjourned: **6:00 p.m.**