



Finance & Operations Committee

December 8, 2022

MINUTES

Meeting called to order by Committee Chair: Kehoe 5:04 p.m.

Board of Ed members present: Kehoe, Christenson, Brooks

District staff present: Merritt, Piesz, Gruszczynski, Salzer, Jory

Also Present: Brian Jessie from Barton Malow **Citizen Representatives present:**

Roderique, Paton **Other Citizen(s):** Mike Grodus, Kisha McKee, and John Johnston

Public Comments - none.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2022 - approved.

Technology Bond Bid Awards - District IT Director Mark Salzer shares the results of two recent bond technology RFPs.

- ❖ **District Fiber Maintenance Service Contract** – We put out an RFP for Basic Maintenance Self-Provisioned Fiber Cable and we received two bids. We are recommending the lower of the two bids. The company chosen is Western Tel-Com, who we have already used for other projects. We have been very satisfied with their work, and they have a good knowledge of the district. Under the federal E-Rate / Universal Service Fund P-CCS is eligible for a partial reimbursement of this work. Historically there has been an annual cost of about \$40,000, and e-rate will reimburse P-CCS 50% of this cost. Fiber damage that results in an insurance claim yields a \$2500 deductible.
- ❖ **Security Needs Related to Bid Package #EL-2** – The second RFP was put forth to address the security needs associated with Bid Package #EL-2 (Bird, Miller, and Smith Elementary Schools). Mr. Brian Jessie, from Bond Technology Consultant Barton Malow, presents the information they used to determine the recommendation to award this contract to Security 101, a local security integrator company. The total cost will be \$86,638.62, which will be paid from the 2020 Bond funds.

Proposed 2022-23 Bus Purchase – Mr. Gruszczynski spoke with his counterpart at a neighboring public school district, who currently have 6 Thomas Electric buses. On the whole they have been very unhappy with the customer service offered from Thomas. Mr. Gruszczynski attended a demonstration where it was shared that

there is approximately 100 miles possible per day on a charge. However, on a day that you need heating on the bus, that reduces the miles possible by 50%. Heating uses more power than cooling. Air conditioning is a feature required on Special Education buses. In addition, P-CCS has no routes under 50 miles, and it would be impossible to charge a bus in-between tiers on half days. Ms. Piesz suggests that we move forward on this purchase of 11 buses. We do not want to miss out on the MSBO pricing deadlines. We are putting out an RFP in the spring for our transportation, and if we were to move to a new company, they may offer different options. She feels we should take some time to complete a study on the subject of electric buses. We could possibly launch a pilot program by purchasing 1 or 2 electric buses to test them out. Mr. Gruszczynski will get in contact with Bluebird and neighboring public school districts to get information about operational costs. Ms. Piesz adds that we would also need to know the related infrastructure costs. Member Kehoe would like to know the total cost of ownership (TCO). He also asks about the use of compressed natural gas (CNG) as a possible fuel option for buses, and for pricing on the cost to expand out use of propane. It is also suggested that Mr. Gruszczynski ask Bluebird for some references that we can contact to learn about their experiences with alternatively fueled buses.

Monthly Financial Update ending October 31, 2022 – Ms. Piesz describes the process of how we use these reports to show trends over three years. From the original budget adopted in June 2022 through October 31, 2022, revenues are trending in a favorable direction with a positive variance, due to the fact that we are receiving tax revenues at a faster pace than prior years. On the expenditure side we are trending at an unfavorable variance, which means that we are spending faster than the three year average. Some reasons for this are that property insurance is higher, utility costs are higher, and work orders costs are higher. Transportation costs are lower due to delayed billing. We should be posting October and November invoices this week. Member Kehoe asks for more context on the increased costs of Maintenance and Operations. Many of our vacant licensed tech positions are being filled with contracted services. Are there strategies that can be done to address this? It is suggested that we drill into this topic over the next few months.

Finance & Operations Committee Goals / Citizen Representatives Interviews Part 2

The committee interviewed the remaining three candidates for citizen's representative. We have five candidates for the 2-3 citizen representative positions needed for the F&O committee. A decision will be made in the near future as to which candidates will be asked to join the committee. At the conclusion of this meeting all five candidates have been interviewed by the committee.

Adjourned: **7:14 p.m.**