



## Finance & Operations Committee

March 9, 2023

# MINUTES

**Meeting called to order by:** Member Kehoe 5:07 p.m.

**Board of Ed members present:** Kehoe, Christenson, Picard

**District staff:** Merritt, Piesz, Emmadi, Gruszczynski, Welch, Jory

**Also Present:** B. Gesaman McCarthy & Smith; A. Read from TMP Architects

**Citizen Representatives:** Roderique, Paton, McKee **Community Members present:** John Johnston, Bill Lorelli, Josh Patterson, Nicole Reid

**Public Comments** – Josh Patterson – Has anyone else compared our ranking to other districts that have similar funding to us? Do all the top districts get the extra funds (hold harmless districts)? Member Kehoe answers to say that P-CCS has always been a high-ranking district, using fiscal responsibility and conservative budgeting to do more with less. Northville, for example, is a hold harmless district, high-performing, but are at the same funding level as we are now.

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes** – February 23, 2023 - approved.

**2020 Bond Projects – P-CEP Campus and New Stadium Revisit-** Mr. Gesaman and Ms. Read present an updated look at the drawings for the new stadium and Canton Phase III renovations. They show the updated drawings and answer committee questions regarding the layout and usage of the new facilities. We have only had one meeting with the Principals and APAAs thus far, which led to a few tweaks in the layout. There will be more meetings and discussions related to programming in the multi-purpose room, Innovation Hub, and the needs related to the existing racquetball courts, weight room, and wrestling area as to what they need. Member Kehoe wants to confirm that all of the groups will be represented, such as Robotics, Middle Schools, and Activity Clubs. Member Picard asks about the practice fields that are being displaced by the new stadium, and wants to ensure there will be enough practice space. The APAAs have reviewed that question and feel there will be enough practice space. This is only in the design phase and there will be many more meetings before plans and layouts are finalized. Fall of 2023 is the target for going out to bid. The Principal at Canton has been tasked with creating a stakeholders group that includes all necessary parties, with activity clubs represented as well as athletic groups.

**BP #EL-2 Smith Elementary Tree Recommendation** – At our last meeting we had some public comments from neighbors of Smith Elementary indicating that the new addition to Smith is intrusive on their backyard and the view has been changed because the addition is 35 feet from their fence line. The neighbor, Bob Benintende, has asked that the district plant trees along the side to obscure the view of the new addition. Ms. Piesz shares that we have received cost estimates for trees requested. The district will recommend the purchase of sixteen 10-12 foot Norwegian Spruce trees at a cost of \$19,400. Mr. Kehoe would like information related to the growth rate of the trees. Also, in response to the concern of neighbor Corrie Byrd, in relation to the HVAC noise, the rooftop units have been installed but they are not up and running yet. These units will have screening and sound isolators installed. The neighbors will be notified of the results and recommendations related to their suggestions.

**Purchase of Maintenance Vehicles** – Mr. Welch speaks to the committee about the need to add three vehicles to the white fleet. The first one is a 2022 Ford F-150, needed to replace a 13 year old Ford F-250. The other two trucks requested are Dodge Ram ProMaster City Wagons. These are needed in order to expand the fleet to accommodate the three replacement positions we will be adding in the Licensed Tech unit for apprentices. These vehicles are available immediately and we will get them as soon as the purchase is approved.

We have been struggling to fill open Licensed Tech positions. We have needed to think outside the box and have decided to institute a new apprenticeship program. This is a program to procure Licensed Trade people, by paying 50% of their school costs. Those who participate in the program have to agree to remain employed with the district for at least three years. We are working in cooperation with Local 324, International Union of Operating Engineers, to assist with the program. We have offered this opportunity to our internal staff members who want to participate, and hope to expand the program in the future. We have two current employees who have completed their training and will enter this apprenticeship program.

**2023-2024 Community Budget Survey Results -** The 2023 Community Budget Survey window closed on Sunday night. We reviewed the 51 budget suggestions that were offered by the community. Each suggestion is discussed to ensure we are clear on what is being suggested. The summary presentation will be shown at Tuesday's Board of Education meeting.

Adjourned: **6: 22 p.m.**