



## Finance & Operations Committee

October 5, 2023

### MINUTES

**Meeting called to order by:** Member Kehoe 5:02 p.m.

**Board of Ed members present:** Kehoe, Picard (Christenson-absent)

**District staff:** Piesz, Gruszczynski, Jory **Citizen Reps:** Roderique, McKee

**Presenters:** McCarthy & Smith/B. Gesaman; Miller-Canfield/James Crowley; Bill Bowman/Great Northern Real Estate **Others present:** Josh Patterson

**Public Comments** – none.

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes** – September 21, 2023 - approved.

**Renewal of the 18 mills Non-Homestead Tax** – James Crowley from Miller Canfield (P-CCS Bond Counsel) presents a resolution that the Board can execute to approve the renewal of the Non-Homestead tax levy. Once approved by the Board of Education, this item can be certified by the counties of Wayne and Washtenaw, and then included on the local ballots for the 2024 presidential primary election, which will be held on either February 27<sup>th</sup> or March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Mr. Crowley has brought an example of the ballot language we would put forth for this proposal. In the past we have needed to renew this tax levy with the voters every 10 years, but Mr. Crowley shares that we are now able to request to renew this Non-Homestead tax levy every 20 years. We are only allowed to levy 18 mills, but we ask for more as a buffer in case there is a Headlee rollback. A Headlee rollback can occur when property taxes rise higher than the rate of inflation. We discuss the “Exhibit A” attachment, which is the official ballot language. Mr. Kehoe feels the property taxes in this area will increase, not decrease, and he feels we should go for a 4 mill buffer and 20 years. Mr. Crowley adds that the district can go out to the voters in the future if we ever want to modify or replace the resolution.

**Summer Tax Levy Resolution-** Mr. Crowley has also brought us an updated Summer Tax Levy resolution. The difference this year is that this resolution asks for Board approval to levy our summer tax on July 1 every year, in perpetuity, unless revoked. In the past we have presented this resolution annually for just the upcoming fiscal year.

**2020 Bond Schedule Update and Presentation** – Brian Gesaman from McCarthy & Smith is presenting a look at the most up-to-date schedule for all of the work over the entire length of the 2020 Bond. This version is the most recent update, but the document is always in DRAFT form, as changes may be made based on current conditions.

The schedule shows each district building over all of the years that the bond work goes on. This scheduling of projects must take into consideration the timing of the three series of bond funds, the priority of the projects, and an evaluation of whether the projects are still necessary when they are approaching. You have to time projects in a way that the cost is paid before the end of the useful life of the asset. All of the future projects on the schedule have projected dates. The schedule is reviewed and updated every year, and information is subject to change. Hoben, for example, was originally scheduled as a future bid package, but it was moved up sooner to address their current flooding issues. Treasurer Kehoe would like the information to be made available to the community by posting it in the 2020 Bond Project Progress page of the district website.

**J/V Field Update** – We have included an update we received from Foresite Design, our outdoor site consultant, who has inspected the J/V Turf Field and the damage that occurred from the storm, and they indicated that the current condition of the field could affect the playability. The flood waters caused uneven surfaces, pitting, and exposed seams. We have forwarded their report to our insurance carrier and to FEMA to determine if there is an outside funding source to help cover the replacement.

**Approval to Purchase Chrome Books- Phase 3** – Andrew Steinmann, P-CCS Associate Director of Technology, presents a resolution to purchase Chromebooks. Originally we were approved \$176,120 for 740 devices. We have worked with the vendor and have discovered a much better device for \$253 each, so we would only have to make up the \$11,100 difference.

These devices will be used for grades 2-12. We are also looking for a separate purchase of protective cases at a later time when we find a better deal. In other good news, Google has now extended their support for their devices from four years up to ten years, which will really help lengthen the life of our devices.

**Tanger Property Sale Update** – We received a letter from Toll Brothers, Inc. to terminate the purchase agreement for the Tanger Center Property. Bill Bowman from Great Northern is here to answer questions about the termination of the agreement. The Township Board has objections to the proposed density of the project, as well as zoning concerns, which has resulted in Toll Brothers not wanting to move forward. Mr. Bowman has been in touch with the second high bidder, Infinity Homes, who has shown interest, but would need to re-assess the purchase price and product. Another option is to go out for a new RFP and start back at square one. We need to decide whether we want to move forward with the demolition of the building. In the meantime, we will continue to heat and maintain the building. We will continue to investigate whether Infinity Homes want to explore purchasing the property, as well as possibly communicating with the other bidders.

Adjourned: **6:30 p.m.**