

Finance Committee Meeting / Voting Meeting

October 8, 2019, 6:00-7:00 PM

Carlynton Junior-Senior High School

Cougar Collaboration Center

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:17 pm by President Jim Schriver. Vice President Joe Appel, Treasurer Marissa Mendoza (arriving at 6:39 pm), and Directors LeeAnne O'Brien, David Roussos, Christine Simcic, and Kelly Zaletski were present. Solicitor Bill Andrews, Acting Superintendent Joseph Dimperio, and Director of Finance and Fiscal Affairs Chris Juzwick were also present as well as six parents/residents in the audience.

Director Roussos led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Juzwick provided a presentation about the District's finances. Mandated costs exceeded funding in the 2019-2020 budget, creating a \$711,000 deficit. Mr. Juzwick called attention to salaries and benefits, which consume 71.9 percent of the budget. Looking ahead to a preliminary budget for the 2020-2021 school year, the board could face a potential deficit of \$1.455 million.

Mr. Juzwick went on to explain that personnel salaries and benefits are guided by collective bargaining units. The Carlynton Federation of Teachers collective bargaining unit allows for a salary increase or "jump step" between year 13 and 14. The jump step is a salary increase of \$40,882. In the upcoming years, the jump step will have major financial ramifications to the district budget.

In the years 2022-2023, 80 district teachers will be at their highest salary (approximately \$97,376/year with the jump step) and about 42 teachers will reach an annual salary at or below \$57,500.

An audience member commented, saying that given its size, Carlynton School District teachers are among the highest paid in the county.

Board members discussed the matter at length, given the upcoming negotiations with the CFT. It was noted that the Custodian-Maintenance collective bargaining unit were helpful when negotiating last year by not taking a wage increase. There was mention of the fund balance and the limitations it places on the district should it be depleted by a deficit. Dr. Dimperio called attention to a recent study conducted by a consultant, who recommended the restructuring and reallocating of district resources in order to sustain a quality education for students. He added that administrators have collectively put their heads together to come up with creative solutions to the budget crunch.

Parents in the audience offered a number of suggestions to board members, stressing the need for communication, especially to the stakeholders of the district.

Mr. Juzwick concluded the finance portion of the meeting by informing board members that the state audit is wrapping up, as in the audit conducted annually by the accounting firm of Hosack, Specht, Muetzel, and Wood. Finalization of these audits will allow the district to begin taking an in-depth look at the 2020-2021 budget.

NEW BUSINESS: *The following motion was made:*

Director Roussos moved, seconded by Director Appel, to approve the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement between the District and the Borough of Crafton. **By a voice vote, the motion carried 7-0.**

Audience members asked for details. President Schriver said the agreement covers a piece of property located in Crafton Borough adjacent to the Giant Eagle. More details will follow, he said.

Intergovernmental
Cooperative
Agreement

ADJOURNMENT:

Director Mendoza moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Zaletski at 7:13 pm. **By a voice vote, the motion carried 7-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Juzwick, Board Secretary

Michale Herrmann, Recording Secretary