

MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 207
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 19, 2021

Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held virtually and on LiveStream on April 19, 2021.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Aurora Austriaco
Paula Besler
Teri Collins
Linda Coyle
Jin Lee
Carla Owen
Sheila Yousuf-Abramson

OTHERS PRESENT

Ken Wallace
Mary Kalou
Shawn Messmer
George Dagres
Brett Clark
Ginny Edwards
Nick Cosek

President Besler called the Special Board Meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

3. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Technology Budget

Chief Information Officer, Mr. Don Ringelestein highlighted the Technology Budget for the 2021-2022 school with an increase of approximately \$1 million over last year's budget. A notable addition is \$525,000.00 in wireless infrastructure upgrades replacing aging access points. Other items include Google Enterprise, wireless hotspots, student Chromebooks, infrastructure and print management software, administrator computer upgrades and a laptop pilot to replace teacher's SIS computers to support classroom instruction. The technology budget is financed through the Education Fund.

B. Investment Volatility Report

Assistant Superintendent for Business Mary Kalou updated the Board on the Investment Volatility Report. This informational report is produced quarterly for the Township Treasurer and shows the impact on the market value of our investment portfolio based on the rise or fall of interest rates. Our current portfolio has a carrying value of \$142,157,000 and market value of \$145,375,107 as of March 31, 2021. If this were year end, we would make a positive journal entry adjustment of \$3.2 million. Included in the report is information on our individual investment maturity and coupon rates.

C. 3rd Quarter Budget Update

The District is projected to reduce the budgeted deficit to a surplus of \$4.2 million due to the insurance premium holiday for the month of December, greatly reduced need for substitute teachers due to full remote, unfilled staff positions, not needing student workers, and Special Education student outplacements not materializing. \$2.2 million in contingency money was not spent as the District used Cares funds.

D. Construction Update

Nick Cosek, Project Manager at West updated the Board on the status of our construction projects. Maine East Center Court is in the rebuilding phase and the added skylight is magnificent. The fieldhouse addition is substantially complete with an occupancy walk through scheduled this week with the ROE. The demo work to the center of the building at South is nearly complete where the new commons area will be. Facade replacement is now underway on the East and West sides of the building. The West new fieldhouse was turned over and students are loving the new space. Site work around the fieldhouse will begin in May. The lower pit area demo is underway with the floor now gone. Plumbers are now working on the under drain system and mechanical contractors are working in the crawl space and basement area prepping for summer work. President Besler made sure to mention that construction videos are posted on the District website and thanked all involved for the great work.

4. CONTRACT UPDATES

A. Charter Bus Bid

Three bids were received for charter buses that are used for after school activities and field trips. A & B Bus was the lowest responsive bidder and the District has been happy with their service. The current bid price represents a 25% increase and will go to the May Board meeting for approval. It is also important to note that there is an overall shortage of bus drivers.

B. Special Education Small Vehicle Contract Extension

Small vehicles such as taxis are used to transport Special Education students, some of which are medically fragile. The small vehicles companies are American Taxi, Citicare, 303 Taxi and All-Ways. This contract extension is for a fourth year at an increase of 1.4% (CPI).

C. Special Education Bus Contract Extension

The District contracts for Special Education transportation for students on small buses. The original 3-year contract allowed for two 1-year extensions to increase no greater than CPI. 2021-2022 is the first 1-year extension.

D. Advocate School Based Health Center Amended Budget

The amended budget with Advocate School Based Health Center includes an additional medical tech. A grant was written for this position and if approved will cover 100% of the \$10,000.00 increase. The additional medical tech is needed to expand vaccine distribution at the SBHC. All during this past year, The SBHC has provided medical and mental health services all throughout COVID and the construction projects.

E. Copy Paper Bid

Paper goes out for bid each year based on the commodities market. Two new companies were with lowest responsive bidders and are currently being scope reviewed. A recommendation will come to the May Board meeting. The District pays only for paper that is ordered.

*5. APPROVAL OF BIDS AND AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

A. Top Driver - Driver Education Services

Resolution: That the Board of Education enters into a contract with Top Driver to provide Driver Education Behind the Wheel Services at a cost of \$499.00 per student as outlined in the vendor agreement as presented.

This contract will enable the District to offer Driver Education this summer. Currently the District's per pupil cost is \$350.00 of which \$190.00 is reimbursed by the state. The District will reduce staff by 2.0 FTE through attrition to pay for students on fee waiver. The remaining staff will be reassigned to Physical Education to reduce class sizes. With Top Driver, students will be able to take Driver Education instruction during the school day and the company is very familiar with our schedule. The contract has been reviewed by the District attorneys.

Motion by Aurora Austriaco, second by Sheila Yousuf-Abramson

Final Resolution: Motion carries

Aye: Austriaco, Besler, Collins, Coyle, Lee, Owen, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

*6. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution: Motion to adjourn the Board of Education meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Motion by Jin Lee

Final Resolution: Motion carries

Aye: Austriaco, Collins, Coyle, Lee, Owen, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

Absent: Besler

With no further business to come before the Board, President Besler adjourned the Special Board Meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Ginny Edwards, Secretary

Paula Besler, President