

**MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**CHOCONUT VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LGI**  
**MEETING DATE MARCH 21, 2011, 7 P.M.**

Mr. Chris Caterson  
Chairperson

Mr. Michael F. Ognosky  
Superintendent of Schools

Finance Committee Meeting

I. March 21, 2011 Finance Committee meeting began at 7 PM in the LGI of the Choconut Valley Elementary School. The meeting began with a 15 minute CLEAR session to discuss two personnel issues.

II. Board Members Present: George Gow, Chris Caterson, Gloria Smith, Karl Wimmer, Doug Wilcox, Pam Staats, Mary Homan, Kristen Follert and Kathy Mordovancey.

Administrators Present: Mike Ognosky, Chris McComb, Craig Owens and Michelle Lusk

III. There were no items under Old Business discussed this evening.

IV. The following New Business items were discussed:

- **Review of the current status of the 2011-2012 Budget:** Mr. Ognosky reviewed the current status of the 2011-2012 school year projected budget. With the decrease in the revenue portion of the state budget presented by Governor Corbett on March 8, 2011 the District expenditure over revenue deficit was at \$1,515,053. The decreases in expenditure included a \$721,862 decrease in the projected Basic Education Subsidy; a \$346,605 decrease in the projected Accountability Block Grant Subsidy; a decrease of \$8,051 in the Special Education Subsidy; and, a \$106,000 decrease in the projected Cyber Charter School Reimbursement – a total decrease of \$1,182,518.
- **Review of the Current District Professional Staffing following the March 15, 2011 Deadline for Retirement notification from the Professional Staff:** Mr. Ognosky reviewed the current professional staffing in each of the three buildings and identified those employees who have been approved by the board for retirement, or, have provided a retirement letter since the March 14, 2011 board meeting. At Choconut Valley there are 4 retirements, 3 at Lathrop Street and 3 at the Junior-Senior High School. In order to reduce costs for 2011-2012 none of the retiree's vacant positions will be posted and filled. All of the retirements will be filled internally from current members of the professional staff who hold the required certifications. Final decisions on how those positions will be filled will not be made until after the final Kindergarten enrollment numbers for 2011-2012 have been finalized in late April. Mr. Ognosky further explained that the goal of the administration is to maintain full day kindergarten and a strong commitment to the RTII process at the elementary schools. He then presented additional cuts in the purchase of new equipment in the Technology Department in the amount of \$192,000 and the cut of a new truck in the Maintenance/Transportation Department in the amount of \$35,000. Also, the custodial position opened with the retirement of Hector Lopez will not be replaced and the replacement of an elementary teacher on unpaid leave by a long term substitute for the 2011-2012 school year will net the district a savings of \$54,764. Those reductions in expenditures reduce the expenditure over revenues deficit to \$497,039.
- **Review of the potential for additional budget cuts:** Mr. Ognosky then provided the board with a prioritized list of additional cuts that have been discussed by the administration. Those cuts include the eliminating or reduction of after school tutoring and detention programs and the transportation costs for those programs in all three buildings in the amount of \$44,500; the reduction in substitute teacher costs with an emphasis on cutting conference costs and staff development costs in the amount of \$65,001; the reduction in the amount budgeted for teacher aide substitutes in all three buildings in the amount of \$6,500; the reduction in the amount budgeted for

credit reimbursement with an emphasis on only approving courses in graduate level studies in the amount of \$38,000; the elimination of all costs associated with Teacher Induction Day with the elimination of the replacement of any retirees in the amount of \$6,428; the reduction of the tuition to the Career & Technology Center in the amount of \$67,721; the reduction of the cyber charter school tuition amount by \$10,848; and, the reduction of the amount budgeted for Instructional Aides positions by \$70,000. Those proposed cuts further reduce the expenditures over revenues deficit by an additional \$308,998 – leaving the current deficit at \$188,041.

- **Discussion of the Governor's suggestion to speak to the unions regarding a pay freeze:** Governor Corbett's suggestion to approach the local unions in regard for the potential to "freeze" increases in salaries and wages for the 2011-2012 school year was discussed. After discussion, the board authorized the Compensation Committee to open discussions with the administrative group, professional employee group, and support staff group to assess their willingness to do so. The Compensation Committee will meet with all three groups and report back to the Board with the results of those discussions.

V. Open Forum: There were no items presented during the Open Forum.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

*Mike Ognosky*

Mike Ognosky, Superintendent