

MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER
MEETING DATE MAY 26, 2009 7:30 P.M.

Mr. Chris Caterson
Chairperson

Mr. Michael F. Ognosky
Superintendent of Schools

Finance Committee Meeting

I. May 26, 2009 Finance Committee meeting began at 7:30 PM in the Community Learning Center of the Junior-Senior High School.

II. Board Members Present: George Gow, Chris Caterson, Kathy Mordovancey, Karl Wimmer, Gloria Smith, Doug Wilcox, Julie Humphrey and Mary Homan.

Administrators Present: Mike Ognosky, Chris McComb, Greg Adams, Craig Owens, Lew Plauny and Don Golden

Public Present: Joseph Tometchko

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

IV. The following New Business items were discussed:

- **Review of the Status of the Proposed 2009-2010 Budget:** Mr. Plauny reviewed the status of the current budget updating the board on some of the changes that have been made in the past few weeks including the adjustment in the fuel oil price, waste removal price, and other bids for services that have arrived in the district. He also explained that there are continued questions regarding the revenue side of the budget and what may happen in the legislature over the next few months. Again, Mr. Plauny is not recommending to the board any consideration of a tax increase for the 2009-2010 school year.
- **Review of the Nuisance Taxes in the 2009-2010 Budget:** Mr. Caterson led a discussion regarding the Act 511 taxes that are currently collected by the district and the possibility that in the future the board consider eliminating those taxes. Chief among his concerns is that at the point that they are eliminated the board should consider revisiting the tax collector stipends as the elimination of those tax bills will have a profound effect upon their stipends.
- **Staffing Requests for 2009-2010:** The following staffing considerations were revisited by the Board following the administrative presentations at the April Finance Committee Meeting:
 - Dr. Golden (Special Education Director) requested that the position of Special Education Secretary be increased from a 210 day position to a 260 day position. The budgetary impact on the district would be an increase in wages over 50 days. At that positions current hourly rate that would be a total of \$4,485. Currently, the employee in the position has "grandfathered" family medical benefits. After discussion, the board agreed to place this as an agenda item for consideration at the June 8, 2009 board meeting.
 - Mr. Owens (Technology Director) and Mr. Tallarico (High School Principal) requested that the positions of Assistant Principal's Secretary at the JSHS and Attendance Clerk at the JSHS be increased from a 210 day position to a 260 day position. The budgetary impact on the district would be in increase in wages for each of those positions with an additional 50 days of work. At the current hourly rate that would be a total impact of \$4,485 for each position. Currently, both of these employees have "grandfathered" family medical benefits. After discussion, the board agreed to place this as an agenda item for consideration at the June 8, 2009 board meeting.

- Mr. McComb (Choconut Valley Elementary Principal) requested that the position of Clerical and Cafeteria Aide at Choconut Valley be increased from 5.75 hours per day to 7.5 hours per day. The budgetary impact on the board would be an increase of \$2,380 in wages at the currently hourly rate for that position as well as an increase in benefits to an individual benefit's package for that employee. After discussion, the board agreed to place this as an agenda item for consideration at the June 8, 2009 meeting.
 - Mr. Adams (Lathrop Street Elementary Principal) and Mr. McComb requested that consideration be given for a Language Arts Coach in Grades K-2 as the District moves into the RTI procedures for next year. This position would replace that current Language Arts Coach position and would be paid from Title 1 stimulus funds. The position would be posted internally and opened first to a member of our own staff – the Title 1 funds would pay for the replacement long term substitute in the created vacancy created by the hiring of the coach. After discussion, the board agreed to place this as an agenda item for consideration at the June 8, 2009 board meeting.
 - Mr. Owens requested that the Technology Coach become a local full time employee. In the past three years this position has been subsidized by the Classrooms for the Future grant and that funding source may not be available for this year. The budgetary impact would be in the Science Department as that position would move from long term substitute position to a full time teaching position with benefits. Salary increase with that move would be approximately \$18,000 with an additional cost of benefits. After discussion, the board agreed to place this as an agenda item for consideration at the June 8, 2009 board meeting.
- **Budgetary Impact of the Oil and Natural Gas Lease:** Mr. Caterson led a discussion regarding the approximately \$220,000 that the district will be receiving for the recently approved oil and natural gas lease on the Choconut Valley Elementary School property. After discussion, the board agreed to move the funds, when received, into the 22 fund specifically earmarked as being received as the lease payment.
 - **McCosar Mineral Rights Proposal:** Mr. Ognosky reviewed the recently received offer from the McCosar Mineral Company, Inc. of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; requesting that the district consider “selling” their mineral rights on the Choconut Valley property and Junior-Senior High School property to McCosar. After a brief discussion, the board agreed to decline the opportunity to do so.
 - **Purchase of Acreage off of the High School Road:** Mr. Ognosky discussed with the board a recent phone call from a property owner in the district asking if the board would have any interest in purchasing a 30 acre plot of land that runs adjacent to the High School Road from Williams Pond to Route 706. After discussion, Mr. Ognosky was directed to contact the property owner and decline the opportunity.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Mike Ognosky

Mike Ognosky, Superintendent