

## FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Date: March 9, 2021 – This meeting was conducted via Zoom.

### Members:

Annette Johnson, President  
Dan Barreiro, Vice-President  
Alex Arroyo, Member  
Dr. Ann Williams, Chief Financial Officer/CSBO  
Dr. Glenda Rosado, Asst. Spt. For Staff & Student Srvs.  
Dr. Jennifer Norrell, Superintendent

### Attendance:

Yes  
Yes  
No  
Yes  
Yes  
Yes

**Participants:** - Steve Megazzini – Assistant Superintendent of Operations

Meeting called to order at 5:02 pm

Public Comments – None

Donations - Accepted

Financials – Dr. Williams reported the January 2021, month end financials. The fund balance was reported at \$125.2 Million dollars. She noted that revenue of just over \$135 Million dollars is in line with expectations, and is 49% of what has been planned. Expenditures were \$133.1 Million dollars.

TRS Supplemental Savings Plan – Dr. Williams reviewed the bulletin included in the packet from Teachers Retirement System (TRS). TRS had initially mandated districts to participate in Supplemental Savings Plans (SSP) 457plan. TRS has received a lot of questions and concerns regarding liability and coordination with existing district plans and the initial deadline of March, 31,2021. Districts from across the state have expressed concern about this initial mandate. This update takes the concerns into account and has changed from a mandate to a recommendation. Dr. Williams stated that District 131 already offers employees the option to participate in both 403B and 457 plans and currently has between 8-10 providers to choose from. She also recommended that the District wait and see how TRS will respond to the statewide concerns before taking any action.

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) – Dr. Williams explained to the committee that the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) flyer was sent to all District 131 parents in February. This program, sponsored jointly by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS), offers additional food assistance to families. Many families in our community will benefit from this program. The District's only involvement is to provide monthly attendance data to the state for the program.

Pest Control Bid #2021-4 – Dr. Williams shared with the committee that the District recently received bid responses for pest control services. Bids were received from three (3) vendors. The bids received ranged in price from \$14,400 dollars to \$21,456 dollars, annually. Bids were thoroughly reviewed by Dr. Williams and Mr. Megazzini. The lowest responsible bidder was determined to be Vector Stomp. The bid of \$14,400 is a 12% price reduction over the current provider.

*The committee agreed to move to the full board for approval.*

Transportation Bid #2021-5 – Dr. Williams informed the committee that the District held a public bid opening, Tuesday, March 9, 2021 for In-District Special Education Transportation Services. Bids were received from two transportation companies; the lowest responsible bid will be an estimated savings of a half million dollars each year.

*The committee agreed to move to the full board for approval.*

Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Personal Property – Dr. Williams stated there is a request to dispose of technology items.

*The committee agreed to move to the full board for approval.*

New EAHS Positions – Dr. Rosado shared with the committee the request for two additional Graduation Coaches at the High School for grades 11 and 12, with salaries funded with Title I funds and Title I SIP grant funds. A third position is being requested for a Director level position of Lead Counselor (Director of Middle School and Secondary College and Career Readiness), also to be funded with Title I funds and Title I SIP grant funds.

Dr. Norrell explained that there are currently two Graduation Coaches at the High School. To keep all students on track to graduate the request is being made so each grade level will have a dedicated coach. Ms. Johnson expressed praise for the success of current program.

Dr. Norrell shared with the committee that the purpose of the Lead Counselor position (Director of Middle School and Secondary College and Career Readiness) will be to work with the Middle School, as well as High School students on a variety of fronts. The specific job description will be included in the packet for the Board of Education meeting on March 15, 2021.

*The committee agreed to move to the full board for approval.*

## **Old Business**

Bond Restructuring Update – Dr. Williams reminded the committee that the District is in phase two of four for bond restructuring. Dr. Norrell and Dr. Williams met with Moody's, the bond rating agency, and the District was advised that the current rating will be maintained. Moody's also advised that the process will be changing in how bond ratings are provided and stated that utilizing a cash accounting method will result in downgrades in the future. It is recommended by the bond rating agency that the District transition to a modified accrual basis of accounting. The sale of the bonds is scheduled for this Thursday, March 11, 2021.

Capital Project Fund Expenditures – Dr. Williams and Mr. Megazzini presented the committee with an updated report of capital projects.

Architectural Services RFQ #2021-6 Update - Dr. Williams advised the committee that the District recently requested qualifications for Architectural Services. Fifteen firms submitted proposals. Dr. Norrell, Dr. Williams, and Mr. Megazzini reviewed all of the proposals and will be interviewing the top five firms next Thursday, March 18, 2021. The recommendation is slated to be presented to the Board of Education in April, 2021.

## **New Business**

Meeting adjourned at 5:29 pm