

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2015 AT 4:30 P.M.

Members:

Ms. Annette Johnson, Chair
Mr. Alex Arroyo
Mr. Ken Darby
Ms. Christi Tyler
Dr. Michael Popp

Attendance

Yes
Yes (*arrived approximately at 4:36 pm*)
Yes
Yes
Yes (*arrived approximately at 4:45 pm*)

Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Public Comments/Questions
3. Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB)—Mr. Bob Lewis, PMA
4. Resolutions to dispose:
 - a. Drivers Education Simulators
 - b. Technology Equipment
5. Grants update
6. Bidding/Purchasing
7. Closed Session, if needed
8. New Business
9. Adjournment

Consent Agenda

1. Next meeting—January 12, 2015 at 4:30 pm, School Service Center
2. Motion to approve the monthly financial report(s):
 - a. List of Bills
 - b. November 2015 Financials
 - c. Fund Balance Report
 - d. Investments Report
 - e. Payroll Report
3. Motion to accept the following donation(s):
 - a. \$250.00 to East Aurora High School from Dolan Murphy

Action Items

4. Motion to Approve Adoption Resolution Authorizing and Directing Tax Levy
5. Motion to Approve Application and the issuance of qualified school construction bonds for obligation to finance certain capital projects not to exceed \$50,000,000.
6. Motion to Approve Resolutions to Dispose:
 - a. Drivers Ed Simulators
 - b. Technology Equipment

Informational Items

7. Grants update
8. Board consensus on re-bidding food service contract

Minutes

The Finance Committee began promptly at 4:30 pm. There were no public comments or questions.

Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB): Mr. Bob Lewis with PMA presented Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB) scenarios. The State of Illinois received a billion dollars authority to release these funds; Chicago Public Schools has received half of these funds. The other half has never been allocated. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has been given the authority to release the remainder of the funds. QSCB's may be used for new construction, land acquisition (*subject to certain rules*), renovating school buildings, purchasing equipment (*subject to certain rules*). An application will need to be filled out and submitted to ISBE by January 15, 2016 along with the corresponding documents required. Applications will be ranked and reviewed by ISBE based on certain criteria.

Ms. Annette Johnson asked if it would be beneficial to ask the State Representative to assist in lobbying for these funds. Mr. Lewis replied it would be helpful; however, ISBE would most likely award the funds via the ranking criteria. PMA estimates District 131 is ranked at number 12. Mr. Ken Darby asked if asking for money hurt the chances of receiving it. Mr. Lewis said he did not believe that would hurt any chances in receiving funds. Mr. Lewis indicated this will probably be the only time this program is available. Ms. Johnson felt it would be irresponsible to not ally for these funds. Ms. Johnson and Mr. Alex Arroyo were in agreement that this should be brought to the full board.

Resolutions to dispose:

- Drivers Education Simulators—Twelve antiquated drivers education simulators are no longer in use at the high school, they would like to dispose of these units.
- Technology Equipment—Numerous unusable/broken miscellaneous technology equipment and devices are no longer operable or usable. The Technology department is requesting to dispose of these materials. Any items that can be scrapped will be; the devices are too old to be reused in a computer classroom.

Grants update: Ms. Margo Schmitt and Mr. Alfred Morales presented a grants overview. Ms. Schmitt informed the committee the grants department is ahead in grants received for FY16 in comparison to previous years. Ms. Schmitt is also working with several not for profit agencies in order to increase funding to District 131. The Fresh Fruits and Vegetables grant has increased to 16 schools. This grant provides refrigerators and carts for fresh fruits and vegetables to the schools and students receive fruits and vegetables two times per week. The Walk to School grant has also increased to nine schools. Room 141 at the high school has been converted from a CAD room to a dry manufacturing room.

Ms. Johnson asked if funding was received for the teen pregnancy grant was ready. Ms. Schmitt commented that prior to her arrival at District 131 the teen pregnancy grant was reporting 60 students between District 131 and District 129. Currently there are 15-20 teens in the program, as a result of the enrollment the grant allotment changed. The grant pays about 85% of the primary teacher's salary and the Districts picks up the remainder.

Ms. Johnson asked Dr. Popp if the District was following a review process to make sure the grants are not costing more to support. Dr. Popp answered there has been discussion with the expansion at the high school in combining this program with the high school program, making it more economically sound. Ms. Schmitt said the benefit of having the program at the high school would be that all students, including males, can be included increasing the dollars to this grant.

Mr. Morales gave an overview on the 21st Century Grant program. He indicated that this grant works closely with Communities in Schools. The grant has increased from three schools to thirteen. There was an increase from 180 students to 940. This grant offers a lot of exposure and work opportunities for East Aurora students and also for college students that live within District 131 boundaries. The City of Aurora has also worked in conjunction with this grant

through the Neighborhood Connection Nights. Mr. Arroyo asked if the City paid for this and Mr. Morales said yes. The City also provides incentives for student attendance for after school activities. Ms. Johnson asked if Communities in Schools was still writing the grants. Mr. Morales answered the first application was written by Communities in Schools, but District 131 is the fiscal agent, the second application Mr. Morales, Ms. Shoemaker, and Ms. Gloria Hunter were all involved in the application process; District 131 is also the fiscal agent. Ms. Johnson asked if Communities in Schools paid for writing the grant, Mr. Morales said yes, with city dollars. Ms. Johnson indicated she wanted to see more grants coming into the District. Dr. Popp informed the committee that the District was trying to hire an additional person in the grants department, in order to bring in more dollars.

Ms. Johnson was upset at an opportunity for a grant from the City of Aurora was missed, especially since West Aurora was a recipient. Ms. Tyler said it was her understanding this was not a grant; it was a low interest rate loan. MS. Schmitt said there was a grant from the City of Aurora that was not applied for, this was because the grant was for historical buildings only, and District 131 has one historical building registered, the Domeier building on Church Road. In order to take advantage of this grant the District would need to begin the process of registering buildings on a historical list. This would limit improvements, since the City of Aurora would need to approve them beforehand.

Ms. Schmitt mentioned some accomplishments with the grants department:

- District 131 was the biggest recipient in private funding for library books-District 131 received \$16,998
- The Clean Energy program and Excelon program which include a hydroponic garden and Envoy
- Received the Hometown Grant in the amount of \$10,000, the video will be featured at Super Bowl 50

Ms. Schmitt informed the committee quarterly meetings have been set up with Family Focus for periodic grant reviews. The fiscal year 15 evaluation was recently completed, for their grant. A grant handbook has also been created.

New Business: There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 pm.