



Financial Review and Reporting Committee Minutes

New Albany Plain Local School District
2-8 Building – Community Room
177 N High Street
New Albany, OH 43054

Financial Review and Reporting Committee Monday, February 8, 2016

Our Mission: *To ensure the development of high achieving, ethical, self-directed, and Intellectually curious citizens of the world.*

Members Present: Becky Jenkins, April Domine, Dave Demers, Kevin Stahl, Laura Kohler

Members Absent: Joe Armpriester, Molly Cooper, Phil Darrow, William Neville, Charlie Osborne and Brian Steel

Others Present: Jill Hatten, Patrick Gallaway and Monica Gerhart

- Laura Kohler welcomed the committee members and opened the meeting at 8:47 am.
- Minutes: The minutes from the October 19, 2015 meeting were held until the next meeting due to a lack of a quorum.
- 2016 FRRC Membership: Ms. Kohler updated the committee on the two open seats due to the resignation of Mr. Parag Patel and the board of education election results where Mr. Darrow is now one of the board representatives and will chair the committee.

Ms. Kohler shared a conversation she had with Mr. Neville regarding the role and size of the committee. Mr. Neville believes the committee should remain at five community members rather than seven and that the role of the committee should be more proactive and be more of a working committee where items like rental rates are reviewed and a recommendation is given. This is just an example.

Mr. Stahl and Mr. Demers agreed that they would like the function of the committee to be more clearly defined and should be more of a proactive/recommending committee. Mr. Stahl also believes the committee size of seven is the right size if all members have diverse professional backgrounds. If they are all the same then he does not see a need for additional members. Both Mr. Stahl and Mr. Demers would like this committee to

be a voting committee where recommendations are made prior to the plan or action taken. Mr. Demers does not believe the vote should be binding to the board but a more formal action would cause more discussion among the committee members.

Ms. Kohler discussed the previous practice to replace committee members. Previously the Board would advertise the open position(s), accept applications then review/interview and appoint the replacement. She said the Board would need to work through the openings determining the process and if the size/role of the committee should change.

- Financial Report: Ms. Jenkins reviewed the December financial report. The district is on plan as expected. The Ohio Department of Education is expected to begin making payments based on the newest biennium budget beginning with the second payment in February. She believes the district will still end on plan in that revenue line even with the late payment changes.

Ms. Jenkins also reported an issue with the boiler at the middle school. She reported there was a leak in the pipes that supply the heated water to the middle school. This was just discovered two weeks ago. The district has a temporary repair in place that should buy time until spring. Mr. Demers asked how old the pipes/boiler was and if the district could go back to the company who installed the equipment. Ms. Jenkins noted that the subcontractor is now out of business. Mr. Demers suggested going to the lead construction manager. Dr. Domine said that the district is working through all of the options available and that having a conversation with the lead construction manager would likely occur.

- Bond Refunding Opportunity: Ms. Jenkins updated the committee on the current bond refunding opportunity she has been monitoring. She explained that the board approved a bond refunding policy previously which outlines the variables that must be met prior to considering any refunding. This refunding currently has a negative arbitrage of \$75,000 and would require an advance closing. The advance closing is unusual and does not meet or exceed all of the board policy requirements. Therefore, her recommendation is to wait until it qualifies as a current refunding.
- Dr. Domine Resignation: Ms. Kohler reminded the committee that Dr. Domine has submitted her resignation effective July 31, 2016. Ms. Kohler said the Board held a special board meeting on February 1, 2016 to discuss the resignation and search process. She also stated that the Board was meeting again this evening and will follow the same process with public participation then an executive session. She asked the members present what their thoughts were on the process.

Mr. Demers said the Board should not rush the decision. If they cannot find the right candidate by the time Dr. Domine leaves in July they should appoint an interim. He also stated that he hoped Dr. Domine did indeed stay until July 31 but that the board should

not “pay her to leave” as happened with Dr. Castle. Mr. Demers stated that Dr. Domine should be included as much as possible because she has a pulse on what is happening in the district. He said he has heard from treasurers and superintendents from other districts all saying “who would take that job”. He noted union, funding and community issues. He cautioned that the superintendent position today is not the same as five years ago. He also stated the successful candidate would have a very strong personality and should come from another highly affluent district so they understand the intricacies of such a district. He believes the right person could come from within Ohio but could also come from out of state.

Mr. Stahl agreed with Mr. Demers in all areas. Mr. Stahl noted that finding the right candidate is paramount and should not be rushed. He stated the worst thing that could happen is to settle for a candidate that does not have the right characteristics or hire a candidate that does not have the entire picture of what they are getting into and they end up leaving right away. This would not be good for the district.

- FY17 Staffing Plan: Dr. Domine reviewed the FY17 staffing plan noting the forecast contains 13 certified staff and an assistant principal for the HS as well as some classified staff. She let the group know the principals were working through their requests now and she would likely have a detailed plan by March. Mr. Stahl asked if Dr. Domine was going to look at the macro level or more detailed. He said using macro level data is somewhat misleading. He noted his own children’s experience with very large class sizes and believes the positions should be focused on the largest classes not necessarily an entire grade level. He also believes not all grade levels should add a certified teacher if there is greater need elsewhere. Dr. Domine discussed the need to reduce some of the higher class sizes as well as additions for reading and math intervention and gifted services at the elementary level.

Ms. Kohler stated that once Dr. Domine’s plan is known the board would expect Dr. Domine to bring data to support her plan.

Mr. Demers said the Board should not change bussing. Mr. Stahl agreed this would simply upset the community again. Both Mr. Demers and Mr. Stahl agree that pay to participate should likely be reduced but they did not have a recommendation for that amount by which to reduce the fee. Mr. Stahl said it should not be at the cost of the 13 certified staff.

- Adjourn: Ms. Kohler thanked all those in attendance and adjourned the meeting at 10:07 a.m.