



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, April 18, 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, Michael Sawyers, Phil Darrow, Bill Neville, Kevin Stahl, Laura Kohler, and Joe Armpriester

Members Absent: Molly Cooper, David Demers, Charlie Osborne and Brian Steel

Others Present: Jill Hatten, Patrick Gallaway and Monica Gerhart

- Phil Darrow welcomed the committee members and opened the meeting at 8:30 am.
- Minutes: The minutes from the February 8, 2016 meeting were presented.
- 2016 FRRC Membership: The committee discussed the role of the committee again this month. Mr. Neville noted that the role of the FRRC continues to be unclear to him. Mr. Neville also noted that the current committee members do not seem to be engaged and that perhaps not replacing the two open seats but keeping the committee smaller would give the members less opportunity to presume that other members will attend the meetings and that they can miss. He also believes a smaller group would be more effective.

Mr. Stahl agreed that the function of the committee should 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. Mr. Stahl would like this committee to be a voting committee where recommendations are made prior to the plan or action taken.

Ms. Jenkins noted that input from the committee on the more global areas such as assumptions in the forecast, win-win and refunding opportunities is very valuable to her.

Mr. Darrow commented that he would like this committee to have deliberate conversations and/or debates.

- **Win-Win Conversation:** Ms. Kohler updated the committee on her conversations with Dublin City Schools regarding the Win-Win agreement that is up for renewal through May 31, 2016. She pointed out that the agreement does not affect all of the member districts in the same way due to different levels of build-out in each district. Mr. Neville cautioned that most people are ignorant to the details of the Win-Win agreement and that the district should keep the talking points short.

Ms. Kohler informed the committee that the district would be holding a community educational forum regarding Win-Win on May 4, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the McCoy theatre. She told the group that an attorney from Bricker and Eckler will be the presenter and that the district will video the educational portion of the presentation so that it can be posted on our website for future reference.

- **Superintendent Search Update:** Mr. Darrow updated the committee on the superintendent search process. He shared that the focus of the search centered on a culture of accountability. Mr. Sawyers discussed his 100+ day transition plan. Mr. Sawyers also let the group know he welcomed feedback on his plan. He noted that the plan puts students first and that the success would be outcome based. Mr. Darrow noted that we needed clear goals and that we must report out not only our successes but also acknowledge our failures and how we will modify our plan to improve.

Mr. Stahl commented to the committee that there needs to be a cultural shift. That if we see a program/action is not working the district should fail fast and not continue to put funding and time in something based on an emotional attachment.

Mr. Armpriester noted that the district should report progress as it pertains to the day-to-day successes and should not solely focus on the annual report card. He explained that the report card does not tell the entire story.

Mr. Neville believes, too, that communication and connections with individual teachers is key to making parents feel that their student is getting a better education. He said he has had experiences where some teachers reach out and communicate far more often than others and that in the high communication incidents they felt much better about their child's educational experience.

- **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 \$54,000 and no longer requires an advance closing. She noted that she will likely take a resolution to the board of education for their approval so it is in place once the negative arbitrage is mitigated with time.

- Five Year Forecast and Financial Report: Ms. Jenkins informed the committee that she is still waiting on updated property values from the Franklin County Auditor's office. Once they are received she will work them into the forecast. She noted the real estate collections are up over \$900,000 than budgeted. She expected to have an offsetting income tax sharing reduction due to a large abatement expiring but had not seen such to date. She has a meeting with the City the following week to discuss her questions.

Ms. Jenkins then turned the meeting over to Dr. Domine who explained the FY17 staffing plan. Dr. Domine explained the positions in detail and noted there was still scheduling work being completed at the MS and HS so this plan could change.

Dr. Domine then asked the committee for input with regard to adding any level of restoration for either transportation or pay-to-participate. The members said they hadn't heard anything about transportation and that the district should leave it at the current service level. Mr. Stahl said athletics is important and should be reduced but that many families pay much higher costs for club sports. He believes education should come first. Once the academic programming is corrected then something could be done for athletics.

Mr. Neville agreed. He noted that he hears most often about the gifted program and nothing about transportation. He noted that it depends on who he's talking to whether community members are upset about athletics pay to participate or not.

Mr. Darrow would like to see the participation numbers and where they have dropped.

- Adjourn: Mr. Darrow thanked all those in attendance and adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.