

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
MANHATTAN SCHOOL DISTRICT 114
October 11, 2017

The Committee of the Whole meeting was held at Wilson Creek School on October 11, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Vice-President Dan DeCaprio called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M., presiding over the meeting in the absence of President Scott Mancke

1. Present: Dan DeCaprio, Dawn Murphy, Liz Boyles, Sue Prynne, Joe Mitchell, and Terry Doyle
2. Absent: Scott Mancke
3. Others present: Russell Ragon, Kim Maher, Dr. Ron Pacheco, Ryan McWilliams, Pete Slattery, Susan Kubick, John Deckleman, Keeley Senn

BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Superintendent Ragon commented on the meeting that he, President Mancke, and Vice-President DeCaprio had with Northpoint. Superintendent Ragon stated it was an informational meeting only and that there was still much information to learn before making any decisions, and also confirmed that the district is working in concert with and supporting the Village of Manhattan and the other taxing bodies.

Member Dan DeCaprio distributed some information to the other members of the Board regarding the Northpoint development.

Superintendent Ragon reviewed the Farmland bids.

POLICY AND CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT

Liz Boyles conducted the Second Reading of IASB policy updates and stated that the Policy Committee was recommending their approval.

Recommended IASB Policy Updates (Second Reading)

2:20-E, 2:210, 2:220-E3, 2:260, 4:60-E, 4:70, 4-170-AP1, E1, 4-170-AP1, E2,

4-170-AP4, 6:80, 6:120-AP1, E1, 6:80, 6:120-AP3, 6:80, 6:120-AP3, E1, 6:180, 6:210, 6:290, 6:310-E, 6:330, 7:80, 7:140-AP, 7:160, 7:275, 7:340-AP1, E2, 7:340-AP1, E5, 7:340-AP2, 7:340-AP2, E1, 8:20-E, 8:70

FINANCE AND OPERATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Member Dawn Murphy reported that the Finance Committee had met with Kevin Wills of First Midstate regarding the restructuring of the current bond debt in order to allow for the continued growth as well as maintain the current tax rate. Member Dawn Murphy then allowed Superintendent Ragon to explain details to the rest of the Board.

Superintendent Ragon said that he is recommending a restructuring of the current bond debt, lowering the next three years bond payments to \$2,000,000 annually, replacing the \$3,500,000-\$,000,000 payments and then increasing the final three years of the schedule to \$3,500,000. He explained that the EAV continues to rise but is not at the level to make a \$3,500,000 or \$4,000,000 payment and allow the district to maintain the current level of services, as well as expand to keep up with the increased enrollment. With continued growth, at the end of the three year period, Superintendent Ragon is confident the district will be able to add an additional \$1,500,000-\$2,000,000 to the bond payments without having to make any cuts in our programs or raise the tax rate above the current \$4.26. Superintendent Ragon is also having Kevin Wills of First Midstate determine the amount of bonds the district could sell and maintain a tax rate of \$4.25-\$4.30 if if the district was able to do a 25yr bond for the building of a new school when it becomes absolutely necessary.

Superintendent Ragon reported that the projected EAV is very good for the coming year. The County Assessors preliminary numbers project nearly a \$22,000,000 increase, with a projected \$10,000,000 in new growth. The Bond & Interest Levy would be for an amount of \$2,000,917 if we complete the restructuring, and would require a levy rate of .80 cents. However, in keeping with the goal of maintaining the rate of \$4.26, Superintendent Ragon would be recommending an abatement of the Bond & Interest in the amount of \$1,300,000. This would accomplish the goal of keeping the rate at \$4.26. It would still allow the district to lower the class sizes that are 28-30 in grades 3-8 (and expected to increase before the year end), back down to 25 students per section, with the hiring of new teaching staff. Superintendent Ragon added that because of the new funding formula that was passed, we should not expect to receive any new additional revenues from the State. Therefore, it is important to manage our debt payments and maximize our local resources.

Finally, Superintendent Ragon reported that the ISBE has finally scheduled all the GSA payments for the current fiscal year. All of the categorical payments, with the exception of transportation, have been rolled into the GSA payments. That is the good news. It means that as long as the GSA payments are made, all of the categorical payments, such as special education personnel, etc., will be made as well. The categorical payments are the payments typically paid late, with half of the money coming in the following year. The not so good news is that MSD114 will not receive any increase in our State funding for this year. That is something that was expected and budgeted for. Although Superintendent Ragon, stated he would like to see increased aid from the State, he said it is more important for them to make the transportation payments for both regular and special education transportation. Superintendent Ragon said the district should receive nearly \$600,000 in transportation aid each year. ISBE vouchered the first payment for transportation. Hopefully the Comptroller will process the payment before long and we will receive the first of four installments. Superintendent Ragon stated he will keep the Board updated on how the State funding is progressing, in the coming months.

FINANCE AND OPERATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Member Joe Mitchell reminded everyone of the Internet Safety presentation on October 18th at Wilson Creek.

CLOSED SESSION:

L.Boyles made a motion to move into Closed Session at 6:15 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the Employment, Compensation, Evaluation and/or Dismissal of Personnel with a second made by D. Murphy. All voted Yea: D. DeCaprio, D. Murphy, L. Boyles, S. Prynne, J. Mitchell, and T. Doyle

A motion was made by T. Doyle to reconvene from Closed Session at 7:04 P.M., with a second by S. Prynne. All voted Yea: D. DeCaprio, D. Murphy, L. Boyles, S. Prynne, J. Mitchell, and T. Doyle

ADJOURNMENT:

D. Murphy made a motion to adjourn at 7:05 P.M. with a second by L. Boyles. All voted Yea: D. DeCaprio, D. Murphy, L. Boyles, S. Prynne, J. Mitchell, and T. Doyle