

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, March 3, 2021
Immediately Following Technology/Buildings & Grounds Meeting
NLSD Media YouTube Channel**

| Committee Members | | | Meeting Dates | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------|------------------|--------|
| X | Donna Kulp - Chairperson | X | Susan Bahnick | Jan 6 | June 9 |
| X | Robin Distler -Co-Chairperson | X | Jennifer Butz | Feb 3 | Aug 4 |
| X | Mathias Green | X | Tim Weaber | March 3 | Sept 8 |
| X | Robert Kern | X | Eric Hill | April 7 | Oct 6 |
| X | Matt Link | | | May 5 | Nov 3 |
| X | Rhonda Frantz – Liaison | | | | |
| X | Sherri Molitoris - Liaison | | | | |

Also in Attendance: Donna Kulp, Frank Gnas Gary Fedorcha

MINUTES

➤ Cafeteria

- Mrs. Bahnick reported year-to-date numbers for the cafeteria. Revenues from this year to last year are down by 63%. Expenses are down by 67.8%. Haven't filled positions, food costs are down significantly and supplies were purchased through grants.
- Mrs. Kulp asked if cafeteria equipment was okay. Mrs. Bahnick commented that she is looking to put a bid out for a dishwasher at the Middle School and a dishwasher at the High School. Dr. Stoker said that there is potential for getting a grant for these. A compressor was replaced in the freezer at the Middle School and it is working great.
- Mr. Link commented that the Middle School kitchen is on the long-term project to-do list. It is need of renovations.

➤ Transportation Subsidy

- Mrs. Molitoris commented that last year the district went into negotiations with Brandywine to come up with a new renegotiated contract to go through the end of the year. Presented to the committee and the board was how much money the district would receive as a subsidy if we agreed to pay them their cost as if COVID didn't happen. The district paid them approximately \$270,000 at the end of the year with a substantial savings on top of that. Prediction of subsidy revenues for this year was \$654,000. The district received preliminary numbers and it is \$660,000. The number can fluctuate a little.
- Section 1501.8 of the school code this year is also talking about transportation subsidy again. They know that we are in the hybrid situation again which affects

the school district and contractors are taking a hit. They want to make sure our contractors can still be in business when districts return to full time. Currently the district is four days a week. PDE has said that districts need to work with their bus providers and in order to receive subsidies in 2021-2022 equal to this year, bus providers will need to work with the district and supply the districts with their variable costs and that is the only thing they cannot charge. Variable costs include labor, fuel maintenance, tolls and any other costs not considered school district transportation. PDE has developed a form to give to Brandywine. Compare weeks from this year to weeks from last year. Brandywine has agreed to work with the district.

➤ Potential ESSER's III

- President Biden's recommendation is out for approval. NLSD may see 2.79 million dollars one time into the district. Money must be used for COVID, PPE, etc. The state has a right to hold 10% back for their usage and \$580,000 must be used towards lost instructional time, i.e. summer programs, summer busing, etc. It must be used by September 2023.
- Mr. Kern asked what is the total of the monies leftover from the previous amount and the amount the district may receive. Mrs. Molitoris commented that there are items budgeted for the ESSER II such as bipolar ionization, bubblers, etc. Mr. Kern asked about usage of it for technology such as the Chromebooks. Mr. Link said technology is always on the table along with professional development for technology. The district needs to make sure we can sustain the lease on these items. Mrs. Molitoris reported that ESSERS II was 1.46 million dollars. Mr. Hill commented that IT is looking at upgrading the Blade Center which is all the servers with the ESSERS grant. In the long run this would help with the technology budget. Mrs. Molitoris commented that of the 1.46 million, the district still has about \$770,000 remaining. They will be meeting next week to finalize the wish list. Mr. Kern commented that the district is coming back 4 days a week, are we covered for the foreseeable future? Mrs. Molitoris said they discussed all this with administrators this week regarding more thermometers, supplies, extra staff, etc.

➤ 2021-2022 Budget

- Mrs. Molitoris reported that the district started budget meetings at the building levels in January. Due to the snow in February, the budget meetings for the district office are scheduled for next week. There will be a budget presentation for the board in April.

➤ Ablepay

- Mrs. Frantz explained that Ablepay is a discount program that offsets expenses to employees for out-of-pocket medical expenses, any kind of deductibles, co-pays. How it works is there is no cost to the district and no cost to the employees,

Ablepay pays your outstanding medical claims and then you reimburse them. There is a percentage discount. Right now it is 13%. If an employee has a \$500 deductible, they save \$65 a year but still get credit for their full deductible. Both LVHN and SLUHN are participants in the program along with other networks. There are several districts in the area that use this and are very happy with it. With the committee permission, Mrs. Frantz would like to roll this out to employees at the time of open enrollment which would be May to get into the program in July.

- The board committee was in agreement with sharing Ablepay with the employees during open enrollment.

The meeting closed at 6:37 p.m.

Reminder: Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7, 2021.