

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, May 5, 2021
Immediately Following Technology/Buildings & Grounds Meeting
NLSD Media YouTube Channel**

Committee Members			Meeting Dates	
X	Donna Kulp - Chairperson		Susan Bahnick	Jan 6 June 9
	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: Gary Fedorcha, Greg Derr,

MINUTES

- Cafeteria
 - Mrs. Bahnick was not able to attend the meeting.
- 2021-2022 Budget Updates
 - Mr. Link and Mrs. Molitoris shared updates to the 2021-2022 budget proposal which was presented at committee on 4/7/21 and at the board meeting on 4/12/21. ESSER III does allow supplanting and \$589,736 of the grant must be spent on learning loss. Potential increase in positions to help address learning loss, funding through the ESSER grant, is five (5) paraeducators and two (2) tech integration specialists. These positions could end with the funding. Anticipated fund balance at the end of the 2020-2021 school year is \$10,507,738. Estimated 2021-2022 expenditures are \$33,796,908 and revenues of \$33,024,460, a shortfall of \$772,448. With the allowed increase in taxes of 4% of \$679,309, \$93,000 would come from fund balance. However, this is only if the school board decides to raise taxes to the maximum amount. Sixty-eight percent of the fixed costs are salaries, benefits, and medical. Revenues are \$18 million from local share, \$12 million from state funding and funds from Federal, fund balance and other. Administration will continue to look for opportunities to decrease expenditures and/or increase revenues as more information becomes available on ESSER's II & III funding and supplanting opportunities.
 - Mrs. Molitoris commented that the budget would be brought to board in May with the maximum 4% tax increase and then the numbers in June would be presented with different increases, i.e. 3.5%, 3%, etc.

- Mrs. Kulp commented that she is not in favor of a 4% increase but understands the May budget is a formal procedure. She would also like to see a list of the spending of the ESSER funds and where they are being allocated.
- 2021-2022 Auxiliary Salary Schedule
 - Mrs. Molitoris pulled this item from the agenda for tonight. She is waiting on the results of a survey from the CLIU on what other districts are paying substitutes and if the district is in alignment with other districts. The salary schedule does not go into effect until August.
- SDIC Refund
 - Mrs. Frantz reported that the district carrier for Workers' Compensation had reported in February that they would be sharing their reserve with districts. They based the refund on claims and longevity. The district received a check for \$25,150 from SDIC last Thursday. It was a pleasant surprise to the district. Mr. Link complimented Mrs. Frantz and Mr. Derr and everyone involved in the safety review teams ensuring we minimize accidents to our employees.
- ABS Update
 - Mrs. Frantz reported that about two and half years ago, the district had trouble with Alternative Benefit Systems (ABS) which was the provider for the flexible spending plan. The payments to our staff were sporadic and then stopped entirely. ABS at the time also issued some bad checks to employees. The board decided to make the employees whole and the employees were refunded approximately a little over \$14,000. An insurance claim was filed and the insurance company refunded the district less the \$1,000 deductible. Mrs. Frantz received a call last week from the Berks County D.A.'s office regarding the criminal complaint. They have finished the investigation and the only thing they could charge the president of the company with is passing bad checks. NLSO employees received a little over \$300 in bad checks. They would like to know if the district would like to continue with the complaint. Administration has discussed the option and has decided not to pursue the complaint. The district could only collect the \$300 and it would have needed to be returned to the insurance company. It was a disappointing outcome.
 - Mr. Green agreed with the district's decision.
- Student Accident Insurance Renewal
 - Mrs. Frantz reported that the student accident insurance renewal came through and there is no increase from the 2020-2021 school year. The cost is \$25,250. The amount offered to parents who want to purchase for non-athletes has also remained the same at \$22 for school time and \$88 for 24-hour coverage.

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Reminder: Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 9, 2021.