



Mill Levy Override Oversight Committee

MEETING NOTES

March 15, 2022 6:00-7:30 p.m. @ WebEx & Admin Boardroom (Hybrid)

Members present: Kenneth Davis, Jerry Carney (V), Dierdre Aden-Smith (V), Jacqueline Dowds-Bennett (V), Lyman Kaiser, AJ Mangum (V), Karen Petersilie (V), Jan Rennie, Jay Smith (V), Nicole Uebel

Members absent: Cynthia Bernard, Ayla Bertetto, Erin Hobson, Chip MacEnulty, Joseph Shelton, Vickie Tonkins, Dan Yaciuk

Guests attending: John McCarron, Assistant Superintendent and Chief Information Officer
Jason Reynolds, Director of Technical Support Services
Ray Caplinger, Director of Network/Telecommunications Services
Jim Hastings, Commander of Security Operations
Parth Melpakam (V) – BOE President
Lauren Nelson, BOE Treasurer (V)

Ex-Officio members present: Glenn Gustafson and Kim Gilstrap *Note: (V) = Virtual Attendee

Preliminary Items:

1. Welcome and Introductions:
Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm. He expressed his gratitude to all those in attendance at tonight's meeting, acknowledging Mr. Gustafson returning from retirement, temporarily.
2. Approval of the Agenda:
Chairman Davis called for a motion to approve tonight's agenda. With a motion and a second, the committee unanimously approved tonight's agenda, with no expressed changes or exceptions.
3. Approval of the Meeting Notes (01/18/22):
Chairman Davis called for a motion to approve the meeting notes from January 18, 2022. With a motion and a second, the committee unanimously approved those notes, with no expressed changes or exceptions.

Action Items:

There are no Action items for tonight's meeting.

Non-Action Items:

4. Monthly Financial Statement Update – December & January:
Mr. Glenn Gustafson stated that all line items are well within budget limits, year to date through January. He noted that some line items are below budget, expressly PIP item 2000-7b. Mr. Gustafson indicated that he had addressed this recurring issue with the PIP owner, Ms. Linda Sanders, who reasoned that COVID has made it difficult. Co-Chairman Jerry Carney spoke up and questioned: "As we discussed in the past, are we going to move forward to reallocate the money or are we going to give them a chance to go ahead and push this forward?" Mr. Gustafson replied

with the rationale of being only three (3) months from the end of the fiscal year and even with the given time frame, we will address the possibility of reducing the budget for that item in the upcoming fiscal year. He added that with the payoff of the bond debt in December (2022), those unspent funds may be beneficial to have in the general fund account, ensuring sufficient funds to make that final payoff, then revisit a decrease in the budget allocation for PIP 2000-7b, next year.

5. MLO Phase-In Report:

Mr. Gustafson stated that this report has been recently updated but is still out of balance by \$150,000, in collection fees for property taxes, as that piece was never incorporated into the Phase-In Plan, until now. The amount reflected is now \$330,000, up from \$180,000. That difference has historically been covered by unspent funds left in the general fund. It is now time to put a permanent solution into place, for this recurring expense. Looking ahead, we will be fully phased in next fiscal year, specifically with PIP 2017-1 at \$4.5M plus the inflation factor, reaching full implementation. There are points of discussion to be had, in regards to changes with the Charter Schools funding and the affect on the Capital Renewal PIP, 2017-8, that is resulting from the bond debt pay-off, on December 1, 2022. Those items will be tabled for discussion, until this fall.

6. Guests: John McCarron, Jim Hastings, Ray Caplinger, Jason Reynolds to cover questions, regarding Technology, Monitoring, and Security:

Chairman Davis handed the meeting over to Mr. McCarron, to introduce his team. Mr. McCarron announced those individuals and stated that with the four specific questions, which Ms. Gilstrap had previously conveyed to him, they should be able to collectively address all of the MLOOC topics of concern. Mr. McCarron began with MLO 2000 PIP 11B, assuring the committee that all of his PIPs are fully staffed with technology support individuals and have no budget concerns with funds to cover salaries and benefits, as the MLO funds have been well utilized each year, minus minor, intermittent vacancies. This includes the support of growth in terms of technology, devices and support staff, under MLO 2017 PIP 7. Also, in alignment with staffing and funding, the 36 library technology educators, are under MLO 2000 PIP 9B, which is combined with other technology support personnel (CITs/LTEs/Security/EDSS). He explained that technology and curriculum expenses are more diverse and “cobbed together”, with the sudden onset and rise of remote learning. He works closely with Ms. Karol Gates, Director of Curriculum and Instructional Support and her team, with purchases of technological curriculum, as some of those expenses may be in a ‘shared’ budget line item. In summary, Mr. McCarron stated that in terms of security camera replacements and the other vast list of assets to be maintained, “we’re not perfect but we’re in a very sustainable place where we can meet the needs of the district”. However, support of these costs is also funded by the state, grants, and other alternative funding sources.

On the subject of security and surveillance in times of power outage (for example), Mr. McCarron and his team have obtained quotes and data for analysis from CS Utilities and determined that the provision of battery-powered backup is not feasible, especially in comparison to the historical number of events on any district campus. Mr. Caplinger reassured the committee that there are protocols in place for emergency situations and every school, office, and building location in the district is provided with an updated version every year.

Chairman Davis replied in understanding but still challenged them to develop a more comprehensive plan of action, which is more consistent, district-wide, and outlines the steps of action to be taken, in any crisis situation. The process should be the same at every building in the district, possibly utilizing radios with assigned channels for communication with D11 Security and local emergency responders of the police or fire departments. He stressed the importance of

training every staff member, established or new, full-time, substitutes, and temporary positions alike. Additionally, all protocols should be easily accessed and understood. In closing, this suggestion for an enhancement opportunity was well-received and the meeting was then handed back over to Chairman Davis.

7. Charter School MLO Line Items; PIPs 2000-21 and 2017-9:

Mr. Gustafson revisited the subject of allocations to the district charter schools, in terms of proportionate shares allocated based on enrollment, which has steadily declined over the last couple of years. He went on to explain the MLO Accountability Form, which he had previously developed to obtain periodic updates from each charter school. The MLO Accountability Form asks how MLO funds are being spent and what are the results of those expenditures. Mr. Gustafson recently requested these forms to be submitted to him, with a stated deadline date. Although they are not required to report to the district or to the MLOOC, they typically provide that feedback, openly. Mr. Gustafson assured the committee that once that information has been received and consolidated, it will be conveyed to the committee. He would like to see the MLO 2000 Charter Schools' PIP 21A and 21B amended to merge those back into one. Looking ahead, the committee should consider alternatives to charter school funding, within each MLO, as meeting those funding requirements presents a challenge as soon as next fiscal year. It was agreed that further discussions on this topic will take place, within the MLOOC, in the upcoming fall season.

8. Triannual Assessment Update:

Mr. Gustafson informed the committee that Public Consulting Group (PCG) is in the final stages of the assessment process and will soon begin compiling the data into a report of their findings. Although he has been pleased with their work, this is the 3rd consecutive MLO assessment with PCG and suggests that the MLOOC consider a different vendor for the next assessment.

9. CFO Overview:

Mr. Gustafson announced the sudden departure of Superintendent, Dr. Michael Thomas, effective immediately. Mr. Dan Hoff, Assistant Superintendent and Executive Director of School Leadership was temporarily appointed as interim Superintendent. The Board of Education appointed Dr. Nick Gledich to step in as the acting Superintendent, interim. Dr. Gledich plans to hold that position through the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Meanwhile, the board is making plans to utilize the services of a search firm and move forward with the Superintendent search. Mr. Gustafson expressed great confidence in the search firm and their ability to find a well-suited candidate for the district. He closed with the assurance that he will be with the district at least until June 30, and his position has not yet been posted.

10. Future Agenda Items:

No specific future agenda items were suggested or discussed tonight.

Adjournment:

Chairman Davis adjourned the meeting at 7:43 pm.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

6:00 pm

D11 Admin. Building Boardroom/Webex