

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held at Limestone Community High School, District 310, on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 7:10 PM.

Committee Members Present: Mr. Matt Johnson; and Mr. Chris Russick

Other Members Present: Mr. Shawn Bryan; Mrs. Maribeth Georges; and Mr. Jim Zachman

Administrators Present: Dr. Allan Gresham; and Dr. Denise Ryder

Dr. Gresham wanted to be sure the Committee members were aware of several COVID-related financial challenges. First, Peoria County Property Tax payment due dates have been extended. Luckily, this will not affect our FY'20 Budget but are concerned about the final tax collection rate for FY'21. We are expecting a decrease in our projected Corporate Personal Property Tax revenues moving forward. This will most likely be felt in next year's budget more so than this year. As a Tier 1 school, we are hoping not to lose Evidence Based Funding dollars moving forward. We are most likely not looking at increases in funding either but cuts will be assessed to Tier 4, 3, and 2 schools before Tier 1 districts. We are expecting mandated categoricals in special education and transportation reimbursements to be delayed. Where we should receive and budgeted four payments, we are now expecting three in these areas.

Dr. Gresham informed the Committee that we still have bonding authority from the last time we went through the bonding process. At that time we petitioned and advertised for our full bonding amounts knowing at the time we would not be asking for it all at once or maybe even at all. At this time, we will have \$1.4 million in bonds that we can issue. This would put us back into debt and go against what we advertised during our Referendum campaign. However, the prospect of a property tax freeze is now more likely than ever. Bonding this money now would increase our tax base prior to a potential freeze. We will likely settle closer to a \$2.31 tax rate after bonds are paid off and Ed Fund Rate goes to full \$1.51. If we want to move in the direction of bonding, we would need to do so by the first of June. The Committee did not want to pursue this \$1.4 million bond issuance and discussed future bonding authority for precautionary measures.

Mr. Johnson inquired about the Request for Qualifications process in regards to the timing of the November Referendum. The Committee discussed and, at this time, will receive the RFQ information and keep tabs on the economic climate before making further decisions on a potential referendum.

Dr. Gresham updated the Committee on continuing discussions with First Student. At this time, we will reassess with First Student the financial situation when this school closure is over to determine any type of settlement on final costs.

*Non Agenda:*

Dr. Gresham informed the Committee that we were recently informed that Chevrolet has officially ended their borrowing programs with schools for driver's education cars. We have had a long standing relationship with Ray Dennison for our cars. We are in the process of exploring options for leasing or buying cars with Dennison and other dealerships and will bring more information to the Board at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

  
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Mr. Matt Johnson, Chairperson

ATTEST:

  
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Mr. Chris Russick