



## **Finance Committee Minutes**

February 15, 2018

**Board Chair**— Mr. Mark Cowell

**Administrative Liaison**—Mr. Andrew Lechman

**Attendance**—Please see the accompanying committee attendance sheet.

Mr. Cowell called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

The minutes of the January 18, 2018 meeting were approved. Motion made by Mr. Marcus and seconded by Mr. Pedersen.

### **Old Business**

- Portnoff Law Associates – Delinquent Tax Collection
  - Mr. Lechman confirmed that there is no update to provide from last meeting.

### **New Business**

- The Verrichia Company in connection with the Wawa project – Mike Fitzpatrick, Tome Verrichia and Bill Dion joined the finance committee meeting to provide an overview of the proposed Wawa project and the estimated financial impact to district revenue. The potential revenue increases will come from property taxes and earned income tax from additional employees. They estimate that the assessed value of the new Wawa project could be 4 times the current assessed value of around \$70,000. The group also discussed other potential revenue opportunities for the school district including:
  - Educational Improvement Tax Credits – This is a state program that allows businesses to donate funds to qualified educational improvement organizations. The New Hope-Solebury Education Fund is in the process of applying to become an educational improvement organization. This opportunity expands beyond Wawa and would apply to all businesses that may be interested in donating to our district to receive tax credits.
  - Wawa Foundation Board
    - Grant Programs with grant opportunities
    - Direct financial grants and in store fundraising

The group also discussed Wawa's link to New Hope-Solebury education.

- Audit RFP – Our current agreement with our auditors has ended and the district will be completing a request for proposal for audit services. The district’s current auditors have confirmed that they believe it is a good time to make a change as they have been auditing the financials of the district for many years. The district is requesting a proposal for services for 3 years.
  
- 2017-2018 Budget
  - Mr. Lechman provided a brief overview of the current status of the 2017-2018 budget as compared to the same period in the prior year. Currently all revenues and expenses are trending normally. Current year 81% of budgeted revenues have been received and prior year 82% was received. It was noted that EIT continues to lag the prior year by \$330,000. On the expenditure side 46% of budgeted expenditures have been accounted for as compared to 50% prior year. Mr. Lechman also provided an update on delinquent tax and transfer tax collections and trends.
  - Budget Transfers were reviewed at this meeting and it was confirmed that none of these transfers have an impact to the overall 17-18 budget.
  - Mr. Lechman also provided an update on the campus revitalization project financials.
  
- 2018-2019 Budget
  - State Budget Highlights – Mr. Lechman provided an overview of Governor Wolf’s state budget address as it relates to state spending on education. On February 6, 2018 the Governor presented his recommended budget for the 18-19 year which included the following:
    - Basic Education Funding – Increase of \$100M
    - Special Education Funding – Increase of \$20M
    - Early Childhood Education – Increase of \$40M
    - Career and Technical Centers – Increase of \$10M

This is all preliminary and will require months of hearings and discussions before a budget is approved. This preliminary budget would equate to an estimated increase of about \$20,000 for New Hope-Solebury School District.

The remaining finance committee meetings will include updates on the current status of the 18-19 budget along with reconciliations identifying the changes being made to the budget as compared to the preliminary budget.
  
- Strategic Initiatives
  - Revenue Opportunities
    - Naming Rights – Dr. Yanni reviewed Policy 701.1 regarding property naming rights and also introduced a draft list of potential naming opportunities on our campus. The committee discussed if the donation would be required to be used specifically for the site being

named or could it be for general use. We discussed this would be dependent on our facility needs.

- The committee discussed reaching out to alumni and retirees as potential opportunities. Dr. Yanni confirmed that the alumni association has been reorganized and he is in touch with the new association president.

### **Public Comment**

- Public comments were made throughout the meeting and are captured in the meeting minutes as appropriate.
- The following comments were made about non-agenda items:
  - Mrs. Stiefl asked about the transportation RFP. Dr. Yanni mentioned that we have been talking to other companies to gauge interest level in responding to a RFP. We have learned that our local First Student is currently unionized and this makes a transition more challenging. We will continue to work through this with one company that has expressed an interest in submitting a proposal.
  - Mr. Kenton
    - Asked a question about how school districts facilitate fundraisers and it was confirmed that fundraisers are typically run through organizations like an Education Fund or Alumni Association.
    - Opened a discussion about how the district is addressing safety and security with funding through the budget process.

Mr. Marcus made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Povacz to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Lechman  
*Business Administrator*



NEW HOPE-SOLEBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
*Engaging, Enriching, and Empowering All Students  
through a World-Class Education*

Committee Meeting Sign-In and Attendance  
February 15, 2018

Name (Please Print)	Committee (C) or Public (P)
MARK COWELL	C P
ERIK PEDERSEN	C P
STAN MARCUS	C P
Bill Dion	C P
Thomas VERRICCHIA	C P
Mike FITZGERALD	C P
ED DUFFY	C P
Ellen Stiefel	C P
Deirdre Alderfer	C P
MIKE MCKENNA	C P
Wayne Keston	C P
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Please note: This sign-in sheet will be included in the meeting minutes and posted to the District's website.