

The June 15, 2017 meeting of the Metamora Community Consolidated School District #1 Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the library at Metamora Grade School. Members present: Mr. Barnes, Mr. Blundell, Mr. Gualandri, Mrs. Miller. Mr. Palmisano, Mr. Strawn, and Mr. Fisher. Others in attendance included Diane Grebner, Jean Ratliffe, Ernie Mansfield, Neal Beer, George Oplt, Jan Holman, Cathy Costello, Tim Damery, and Marty Payne.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Mr. Blundell, seconded by Mr. Barnes, to approve the consent agenda. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

Reports from the Public

There were no reports given from guests in attendance.

Public Hearing for an Amended Metamora CCSD #1 Budget

Motion by Mr. Blundell, at 7:05 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Miller, to adjourn the BOE meeting for the purpose of a public hearing. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

Mr. Payne presented information regarding the need to amend the budget. The presented information is as follows. The page numbers reference pages 2 and 3 of the district budget, in the section titled, "Budget Summary," and can be found on the district website.

Fund 10 – Education Fund

1. Amended to account for \$39,893.59 in revenue. The money comes from the remaining balance in "Capital Projects", and is left over from our building bonds, and is to be used for future purchase of textbooks. The abatement process is a bit confusing. Legally, we need to first transfer the funds to the "Operations and Maintenance" fund, then transfer on to the "Education Fund."
2. The line item in the budget amendment is line 29, page 2, "Transfer Among Funds,"

Fund 20 – Operations and Maintenance

1. Amend to account for the transfer in, and transfer out, of the \$39,893.59.
2. The line items for the revenue is page 2, line 31, "Transfer from Capital Projects Fund to O&M Fund". The other line item is line 52, page 3, "Transfer among Funds".

Fund 30 – Debt Service

1. The need to amend comes from an omission of a line-item entry in the original expenditures. The revenue is there to cover the expense, but we need to add the line item back into the budget to pay the bill. The total comes to \$35,727.
2. The line item is reflected in the total of line 17, page 2, titled, “Debt Services”.

Fund 40 – Transportation

1. The need to amend comes from the added lease of a bus. There will be a transfer of \$12,340 from Working Cash to cover the cost. The Transportation fund will then see both that revenue, as well as the expenditure.
2. The line items include line 27, page 2, titled, “Abatement of the Working Cash Fund,” and line 14, page 2, titled, “Support Services.” Please note that the specific dollar amount is not given, but the amount is added to the sum total of the line item.

Fund 60 – Capital Projects

1. This refers back to the abatement of funds to the O&M Account, then on to the Education Fund. Again, the money has been set aside for the purchase of textbooks.
2. The line item is 54, page 3, titled, “Transfer from Capital Projects Fund to O&M Fund”.

Fund 70 – Working Cash

1. The need to amend comes from, again the lease of an additional bus this year. The transfer total is \$12,340.
2. The line item is 50, page 3, titled, “Abolishment or Abatement of the Working Cash Fund”.

Upon conclusion of the amended budget presentation, the floor was opened for questions and/or comments. None were asked/given.

Adjourn the Public Hearing and Return to the Normally Scheduled Meeting of the Board for Education

Motion by Mr. Blundell, at 7:10 p.m., seconded by Mr. Palmisano. All present voted yeas on a roll call vote.

Action Items

A. Electricity and Natural Gas

Ernie Mansfield, third party administrator for electricity and natural gas, presented information to the district, showing savings based on purchase of both a locked in rate (50%), and a flex rate based on futures (50%).

Motion by Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Strawn, to approve the purchase of electricity and natural gas as presented. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

B. Amended Metamora CCSD #1 Budget

Motion by Mr. Blundell, seconded by Mr. Palmisano, to approve the amended budget as presented. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

C. Building and Board of Education Liability Insurance

As first presented at the May Board meeting, the increase for the 2018 Fiscal Year is roughly 5%. Motion by Mr. Blundell, seconded by Mr. Strawn to approve the continued contract with Country Financial for insurance. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

D. Documents Pertaining to the Annual School Safety Team Meeting

Motion by Mr. Palmisano, seconded by Mr. Strawn, to approve the document as presented. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

E. Milk Products for the 2017-2018 School Year

The only bid submitted came from Prairie Farms. Motion by Mr. Blundell, seconded by Mr. Barnes to approve the following milk bid from Prairie Farms:

2016-2017 Prices

½ pint 1% white milk - .224

½ pint skim chocolate - .234

2017-2018 Prices

½ pint 1% white milk - .233

½ pint skim chocolate - .243

F. Student Handbook

Mrs. Costello and Mr. Damery presented the proposed changes for the 2017-2018 Handbook. Motion by Mr. Blundell, seconded by Mr. Barnes to approve the handbook changes as presented. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

NOTE: The 2017-2018 Handbook will be available with the start of school in August.

G. Required Ordinance Approving Prevailing Wage

Motion by Mr. Blundell, seconded by Mr. Barnes, to approve the prevailing wage ordinance. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

H. Continued Hazardous/Safe Routes to School

Motion by Mr. Strawn, seconded by Mr. Palmisano, to approve the continued grant with IDOT and the ISBE to secure reimbursement for students who have been determined to live in a hazardous zone. All present vote yea on a roll call vote.

I. Changes to the Activity Accounts

Motion by Mr. Palmisano, seconded by Mr. Blundell, to approve the changes as presented. The changes are as follows:

- a. Chorus Trips Account – we will disburse \$172.50 to the MGS Music Boosters, and rename the account the Ukulele Account.
- b. Band Trip Account – we will disburse \$351.31 to the MGS Music Boosters and eliminate the account
- c. Solo & Ensemble – we will disburse \$17.70 to the MGS Music Boosters and eliminate the account.

All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

Discussion Items

A. Board of Education Retreat

The retreat has been scheduled for Saturday, July 8, at 8:30 a.m.

B. Staff Computer Purchase

Mr. Payne explained that the district has a plan so the staff can purchase a computer through the district. The district will buy the computer up front, and the staff member will then pay the district through payroll deduct.

C. County-Wide Sales Tax

The question was put on the ballot in the spring of 2012 and was defeated. The sales tax allows for a 1 cent tax on every \$1.00 going to the school district, with the amount each school district receives from the county is determined by enrolment. The last effort would have generated roughly \$200,739.

There has been discussing within other school districts in the county, and Mr. Payne needs to share with them the position of the BOE. The other superintendents in the county are discussion this with their respective BOE's, as well. The Board directed Mr. Payne to research how other boards currently stand on the sales tax and to report back as part of the retreat.

Information Items

A. Board of Education Committee Reports

Mr. Fisher, Executive Committee Chair, shared that this committee had met, but that it would need to be discussed in Executive Session.

B. Administrative Reports

During the summer months, the members of administration do not have formal reports for the BOE. The agenda item remains in the event information needs to be shared.

Mr. Damery shared that Dennis Wessel will be taking care of the diamonds this baseball/softball season, and that the Boosters will cover the compensation. Mr. Damery shared too that Willie Williams, 6th grade boys basketball coach, will be hosting a weekend tournament, and while our kids will be involved, still wishes pay the gym rental fee and to make a financial donation to the school.

Mr. Payne shared the following information regarding Senate Bill 1:

Senate Bill 1, or, "The Evidence-Based Model for School Funding" has passed both the House and Senate, and has been sent to the Governor. As I'm sure you can gather, there is speculation as to whether he will sign it or not. The state is in yet another year without a budget, but school funding is an area that has passed both executive chambers. The basics of Senate Bill 1 are as follows:

- "Adequacy Target" - this is what is needed to fund/educate a child. Each school district in the state has unique needs based on poverty counts, local wealth, and the percentage of special needs students. The basic question asked of the adequacy target focuses on how much a high quality education costs.
- "Percent of Adequacy" – this translates to how well-funded is the district?
- "Local Capacity" – how much the district can contribute
- "Base Funding Minimum" – how much the state currently contributes
- "Gap to Adequacy" – the balance that remains
- "Distribution Formula" – how is new money from the state distributed?

Rather than trying to break down each page of the power point that has been distributed, that took a 1.5 hour webinar, I'll provide a summary and share what the data shows, at least for now, for us.

- No district will lose money. Based on how “poor” a district is, much of which is determined by the wealth of the district, some will receive substantially more than others. Larger, poor, urban districts will receive substantially more than we will.
While we may be struggling financially, the Bill would consider us a district that has more potential for local resources, than, for example, a Peoria, Decatur, Rock Island, etc.
- There are four tiers of “funding gaps” for school districts in the state. Tier 1 has the lowest funding gap, and Tier 4 has the greatest funding gap. All school districts in Woodford County, at least according to the spreadsheet distributed with the Bill, are Tier 2 districts.
- The bottom line for MGS is clearly how much new revenue will gain state funding. Again, referring to the spreadsheet, it would appear that we will see an increase of \$56,086. Again, this is not final, and in my 11 years as a Superintendent, I'm yet to see our final General State Aid allotment until mid-August.
- I was hopeful that the data and/or webinar would further discuss our “Mandated Categorical” payments, but it didn't. These are the quarterly payments we are supposed to receive, primarily, for special education (Education Fund), and transportation (Transportation Fund). At the time of the BOE meeting, we have received only 1 of the 4 payments this year, with transportation already prorated to 70%.

While more revenue is always a good thing, it clearly doesn't begin to pay the backlog of over \$1,000,000 that we've lost over the past 5 to 6 years. The increased funding is said to a “hold harmless” amount. We're still in a financial crisis in our district, with what is clearly too low of a tax rate for our Education Fund. The other frustrating part of the Bill comes from Chicago. A huge component and selling point of the Bill is that, “No district loses money”. This includes Chicago. TRS, the Teachers Retirement System, is, as a reminder, the retirement investment plan for Illinois teachers. Chicago has its own teachers retirement fund, the CTPF; Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund. As part of the Bill, the state now allocates \$215,000,000 to this fund. While it has been described as “equitable”, it's also been described as a, “bailout”. This is in addition to the funding that will be given to Chicago in the “Distribution Formula”.

In the end, the goal of the Bill is to revamp school funding in Illinois in an effort to eliminate a system that isn't working. While it isn't substantial, we are scheduled to receive more state revenue, which hasn't happened in a long time. The effort is to provide greater financial assistance for poorer school districts, and less financial assistance for wealthier districts. Time will tell how beneficial it will be for us.

Acknowledgement of Cards and Letters

Mr. Payne shared a few cards of appreciation that had been given to the BOE.

Executive Session for the Purpose of Appointment, Compensation, Discipline, Dismissal, or Performance of Employees

Motion by Mr. Blundell (at 8:18 p.m.), seconded by Mr. Palmisano, to enter into executive session. All present voted yea on a roll call vote

Motion by Mr. Barnes (at 8:40 p.m.), seconded by Mr. Strawn to adjourn the executive session meeting and to return to open session. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

Action taken after the Executive Session Meeting

Motion by Mr. Blundell, seconded by Mr. Strawn, to approve a 3% salary increase for non-certified personnel and members of administration for the 2018 fiscal year. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

Motion by Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Palmisano, to approve \$85.00 as a daily rate of compensation for substitute teachers. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

Motion by Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Palmisano, to approve the hire of John Kurtz, Betsy Robinson, Julie Stamm (part-time), and Janelle Bender (part-time), as non-certified personnel for the 2017-2018 school year.

Motion by Mr. Palmisano, seconded by Mr. Barnes, to approve the resignation from Ryan Steele, and the hire of Nathan Richards, for the summer maintenance crew. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

Motion by Mr. Blundell, seconded by Mr. Palmisano, to approve a leave-of-absence for Kaleigh Christ. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

Motion by Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Blundell, to approve Jim Dansart for the position of bus driver. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

Motion by Mr. Blundell, seconded by Mr. Palmisano, to cancel the July 20, 2017 meeting of the Board of Education, and include all agenda items as part of the July 8, 2017 Board of Education Retreat. All present voted yea on a voice vote.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Strawn (8:48.m.), seconded by Mr. Barnes to adjourn the June 15, 2017 meeting of the Board of Education. All present voted yea on a voice vote.

Bob Fisher, President
President

Mary Miller, Secretary
Secretary

