

## Finance and Facilities Meeting Minutes October 10, 2017

### 1. Contracts

- A. Transportation – The Tolland School system is currently in year four of a five-year contract. First Student, the bus company uses, is the largest bus company in the area by far and seems to be doing a good job. First Student is closely monitored for performance including providing weekly maintenance reports. The superintendent feels that First Student is meeting district needs at this time. In general, longer bus contracts have lower yearly costs for the life of the contract. Other companies are currently used for some special education bussing, and this arrangement will probably not change. An open bid process will be performed next year for a new contract. Expansion of the Birch Grove driveway to allow drop-off of all students at once would cost \$200,000, but would increase the cost of bussing because each school would have their own bus runs. Currently, the Birch Grove and Tolland Intermediate school bus runs occur at the same time.
- B. Grounds Agreement with Town – Town endeavors to live up to the Grounds agreement but struggles with staffing shortages. Landscaping can be a challenge, and it is possible that snow removal will be slow this winter. The school personnel are working hard and the school could be helped by purchasing additional snow removal equipment.

### 2. Status of Ongoing Projects

- A. Parker School – The Parker School project is now separate from the school system. The next step at the Parker School is asbestos removal that will require the work areas to be encased in plastic and personnel in plastic suits to be entering and exiting the building.
  - B. Capital Plan – The capital plan will be presented to the Board of Education on October 11, 2017. Some capital projects were moved out to 2023 because of the budget issue. Due to budget constraints it does not appear that a previously identified \$100,000 from the town will be provided for the capital plan for fiscal 2017-2018.
  - C. Geothermal – Each year, the geothermal comes close to paying back the cost of the loan in savings. When the savings do not meet the contract guarantee as indicated by a “Measurement and Verification Process”, the Town and district receive funds.
  - D. Loan for Geothermal – Loan is being paid as part of school budget.
3. Usage of the 1% Fund – The 1% fund balance was voted to the Board of Education and was taken into account in the budget discussions. The ordinance on the 1% fund is not currently being looked at for modification.
4. Possible Cost Savings – Tabled to a future meeting.
5. Unfunded Mandates – According to the superintendent, there are more than 280 unfunded mandates from the state, there are documents describing these unfunded mandates on the BOE website.
6. Concrete Foundation Issues – The foundation at Birch Grove is being checked for issues related to the concrete foundation, and there are some signs that there may be an issue. Tolland High School is not showing any signs of concrete issues. Tolland Intermediate School and Tolland Middle School were built before the concrete foundation issue started and would not be affected.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Schroeder