



FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 11, 2015

Chatfield-LoPresti School

Cafeteria

7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Kristen Harmeling, Chairman
Jennifer Magri
Yashu Putorti

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools
Rick Belden, Asst. Superintendent, Finance & Operations
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Harmeling called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m.

II. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

A. Information and Recommended Action

1. Review of Workers Compensation Expense Projections and possible action to refer to full Board for review.

Mr. Belden did an overview of how Workers' Compensation works. He explained that the Town of Seymour as well as the Board of Education is self insured. Employees on Workers' Compensation must go to contracted doctors. He said he meets with PMA at least twice a year to review the open cases. Ms. Harmeling asked if we have a reserve fund. Mr. Belden explained we do not have a reserve fund on the BOE books, but do have a line item in the budget which is based on information from PMA. Mr. Belden said when a person goes to the emergency room they are asked if they were hurt on the job, in a car accident, or otherwise. If they indicate hurt on the job that is how it is billed. He said there is no burden on the employee to prove that the injury happened on the job. They can have a prior injury and then re-injure themselves on the job. As a result, we will own a piece of that injury. Mr. Belden reviewed several claims that are contributing to an increase in our Workers Compensation insurance expense for 2014-15. The claim dates range from an initial injury in 2005 to an initial injury in 2014. Ms. Magri asked if we settle with them, are we done? Mr. Belden said the amount of the settlement will be determined by PMA. For one claim, the settlement will be paid by the Town and then they will be reimbursed by the excess cost insurer (it will just be a cash flow issue). Once the employee settles, the case is closed and there is no further liability for the BOE. Ms. Magri asked if we had representation at the hearings and Mr. Belden said PMA attends and testifies. Mr. Belden said it is a volatile situation at this time. The Board of Education can cover a conservative amount with the budgeted line item. If more is needed we would need to take from other line items such as the technology line item. Ms. Harmeling said she was against taking from the technology line item. She said if the town has reserves, we should ask them to pay. We are a department of the Town of Seymour. Mr. Belden also

discussed the possibility of setting up a formal internal service fund with the Town where in good years, leftover funds go in and in bad years, we can pay from it. The Finance Committee recommended to the full Board that the Superintendent of Schools and the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations be authorized to pursue a conversation with the First Selectman and the Chairman of the Board of Finance regarding the use of Town reserves to pay our workers compensation deficit.

2. Review and recommendation to the full Board of Education to approve the Financial Management Summary ending December 31, 2014

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Putorti) to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Financial Management Summary ending December 31, 2014 as presented

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti

3. 2015-16 Board Education Budget Communication Discussion
There was not enough time to discuss this item so a recess was called so the meeting can be continued after the Special Board of Education meeting.

Recess began at 7:30 pm

Reconvene at 9:24 pm

B. Reports

1. Chairman's Report
None
2. Superintendent's Report
None

III. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to adjourn

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk