

DANSVILLE SCHOOLS
Board Committee Finance Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2009

A Finance Committee meeting of the Dansville Schools Board of Education was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Treasurer Phil Minshall.

Members Present: Phil Minshall, Dan Pheils, Mary Clinton

Administrators: Ron Stoneman, Faith Norman, Terry Jones, Amy Hodgson, Krista Voss, Carolyn Jones, interested board member.

Treasurer Phil Minshall read a statement regarding the school budget and concerns regarding such. He stated it was not the view of the Board as a whole.

Superintendent Stoneman discussed the to-date 2009-10 budget and the reductions made to obtain a balanced budget.

- The need for a 1st grade teacher still exists as enrollment is 57 to 60 students for the 2009-10 school year. Approximately \$50,000 is needed for this position.
- The district needs a special education secretary at a cost of \$11,000.
- The Board goal states a need for a 10% addition to fund equity which is approximately \$30,000.
- Need to discuss reductions that are sustainable.

Vice President Clinton inquired if the current 1st grade size be maintained/achieved by hiring a paraprofessional.

Superintendent Stoneman replied yes, with great concerns of class size and student room within current classrooms, which are 790 square feet. The standard classroom size is 900 sq ft.

The 1st grade teacher position is not yet posted, but could be filled by a currently laid off teaching staff member. A decision will not be reached until after school starts as to monitor school enrollment, which could increase or decrease significantly.

Superintendent Stoneman asked the committee for direction.

Treasurer Minshall stated the need to look at the next steps, and for the following years. He stated our administrative portion of budget is average statewide but should be discussed and researched. Is our percentage high? Is it the same as larger schools? Should Dansville have the same costs as a Detroit Public School or Lansing Public School?

Superintendent Stoneman stated the administrative contracts would be discussed during the regular board meeting.

Vice President Clinton stated to reduce the line items as much as possible but there would be a point when personnel need to be reduced as a last resort.

Secretary Pheils agreed. He stated due to current enrollment numbers there is a necessity of a third 1st grade teacher. He feels the budget needs to be balanced including that third teacher and unfortunately personnel cuts would most likely have to occur.

Superintendent Stoneman asked if it was committee directive to have small class sizes and hire a third first grade teacher?

Treasurer Minshall stated small class sizes are an attractive feature to School of Choice families.

Superintendent Stoneman stated Stan Kogut, the ISD Superintendent, was in attendance and asked to help give insight.

Superintendent Kogut stated the district's process was going in the right direction. Unfortunately staff reductions need to be explored to help maintain the desired fund equity and minimize reductions affecting the students the most. There is a need to position the district well for school year 2010-11 and beyond. Dansville needs to develop a plan for fund equity use and replenishing those dollars spent. There are no easy decisions for reducing budgets.

Superintendent Stoneman stated the Dansville School district is in the bottom 5% in the state for fund equity.

Treasurer Minshall asked for confirmation that one of the custodial staff would potentially be reduced 50 days with same amount of work to complete. Superintendent Stoneman stated yes and that most of the district employees have already or will get increased workloads to complete in the same amount of time.

Secretary Pheils asked if the current position for Special Education secretary was part time. Carolyn Jones inquired whether an existing secretary could be split to cover the Special Education secretary duties.

Elementary Principal Faith Norman stated elementary counts are low. There are currently small 2nd (55 enrolled) & 3rd (60 enrolled) grades. One of those teachers could possibly be utilized for the 1st grade teacher if enrollment continues to drop.

Secretary Pheils stated the district should plan for large 2nd and 3rd grades now to obtain a 1st grade teacher.

Krista Voss stated there were numerous conversations on different possibilities on regarding the Special Education Secretary position. She stated she did not know the position was taken out of the budget. She stated she could reduce \$7000, but not total \$11,000 the position costs.

Superintendent Stoneman stated that with the scenarios proposed to him, he was not confident the duties could be accomplished completely.

High School Principal Amy Hodgson stated she gave a proposal, which included unemployment payments. She stated she proposed no other proposals because the first submitted were rejected.

Superintendent Stoneman stated he had asked unemployment not be included in any scenario/proposal as a variable.

Vice President Clinton asked for an explanation on this subject.

Superintendent Stoneman stated there were currently two office employees in High School office. The option was split one with Special Education. Unfortunately, the scenario does not work with seniority schedule.

Secretary Pheils asked the number of secretaries in the other offices. He inquired why there were 2 in the High School office. Principal Hodgson stated there were numerous state reports to be completed. She also stated there had been discussion regarding a reduction in the aide position.

Middle School Principal Terry Jones stated that school had reduced in any available areas. They absorbed the technical position into current classrooms.

Principal Hodgson stated the High School budget was reduced 45%. The majority was from dual enrollment elimination from adding AP classes. She stated she had made a proposal for aide position and would be willing to work on that proposal.

Superintendent Stoneman stated the proposition from the Elementary school and an hour reduction in the High School could cover the costs of a 1st grade teacher and special education secretary.

Treasurer Phil Minshall asked to confirm the public budget hearing. Superintendent Stoneman confirmed June 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Elementary Library.

Vice President Clinton stated the desired 10% fund equity could be eliminated for this year if it helped not hiring a teacher and adequate Special Education support was achieved.

Principal Jones stated the potential retirement of staff after the 2009-10 school year.

Superintendent Stoneman stated the need to purchase buses as the 2009-10 would be the second year no buses were purchased.

Secretary Pheils feels the addition of 10% to fund equity is needed and should be a requirement of the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Minshall, Treasurer