



2016 School Study Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2016

5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Harvey Education Center, Board Room

Mr. Drzewicki called meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

Committee members new to the committee or attending for the first time introduced themselves. The committee was divided into four groups and were asked to discuss the recent facility tour of in-town schools and report out their "take-aways".

Committee Chair(s) Roles & Responsibilities and Selection of Committee Chair(s)

Mr. Drzewicki reviewed the committee roles and responsibilities. The groups were asked to discuss the committee chair(s) roles and responsibilities and report out. An addition to the roles, "establishes timelines and keeps committee on task," was added as a result of the discussion.

Mr. Drzewicki explained the proposed process for the selection of committee chair(s). Mr. Drzewicki opened the floor for nominations. Jon Droscha nominated Chris Waltz to serve as chair, it was seconded and Chris accepted. Tim Ayres nominated Russ Whipple, it was seconded and Russ accepted. Jon Droscha nominated Sally Trout, it was seconded and she accepted. Mr. Drzewicki closed the floor to nominations.

The committee discussed the option of having one chair or co-chairs, and it was suggested to have a chair and a vice chair. It was agreed upon to vote on three options: one chair, two co-chairs, or one chair and a vice chair. A show of hands was called and the chair and vice chair option won with majority support.

An election by ballot was held. Members were asked to vote on a chair and vice chair. Liz Evans reported out the election results as follows for chairperson: Chris Waltz 13 votes, Russ Whipple 8 votes, Sally Trout 5 votes. For vice chair: Sally Trout 14 votes, Russ Whipple 7 votes, and Chris Waltz 4 votes, 1 no vote. Election results: Chris Waltz, chairperson, Sally Trout, vice chair.

Secretary Roles & Responsibilities and Selection of Secretary

The groups were asked to discuss the secretary roles and responsibilities and report out. An addition to the roles, “complete minutes in a timely fashion,” was added as a result of the discussion.

Mr. Drzewicki opened the floor for nominations for secretary. Chris Waltz nominated Shelly Fanson to serve as secretary, it was seconded and Shelly accepted. Tim Ayres nominated Emily Kress, it was seconded and Emily accepted. Mr. Drzewicki closed the floor to nominations.

An election by ballot was held. Members were asked to vote on a secretary. Liz Evans reported out the election results as follows: Shelly Fanson 16 votes, Emily Kress 9 votes, 1 no vote. Shelly Fanson appointed secretary.

Sinking Funds and Bonds

Jeffrey J. Soles, Attorney Thrun law Firm and Jesse Nelson, Financial Advisor, CPA, Umbaugh & Associates provided an overview of bonds and sinking funds.

The recently passed Mason Public Schools sinking fund was a renewal of the previous sinking fund. Renewals require that the sinking fund requirements remain the same. The requirements of the previous sinking fund did not allow for land to be purchased with sinking funds. Therefore the recently passed sinking fund renewal will not allow for the funds to be used for land purchases. School districts may have more than one sinking fund however; the aggregate total of all sinking funds may not exceed 5 mills or go beyond 20 years. There are a few school districts that have more than one sinking fund.

Bond ballot language requirements are outlined in the Revised School Code, Act 451 of 1976, Section 380.1351a. The ballot language that is provided to voters during an election follows the statutory language to allow flexibility of the projects covered by the bonds. Election dates include May, August and November. Additionally, there are special petition elections which can be called by voters to have an additional election other than in the months mentioned above. A special petition election is called by voters that circulate a petition with the ballot language. The petition must be signed by at least 10% of the voters from the last gubernatorial election.

School districts can have qualified bonds which are part of the School Bond Loan Fund (SBLF) or non-qualified bonds that are not part of the SBLF. Using the SBLF provides the school with the State of Michigan bond rating, lower interest rates, and requires prevailing wage rate. There is also a loan program in the SBLF in that mills over 7 the school can get funding (loan) from the State to help with bond payments. There will be interest owed on the loan. Non-qualified bonds do not use the State of Michigan bond rating, have higher interest, and do not have requirements for prevailing wage.

Small Group Discussion

The groups were asked to discuss elementary facility needs and report out. Each group reported out their “take-aways” to the committee.

Next Meeting: August 24th 7:00 pm