

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024 8:00AM

AGENDA

Board Members in Attendance: Robin McKeon, David Shaw, Timothy Salmon
Administrators in Attendance: James Rollo, Nick Markarian, Sean Siet

1. June 6th, 2024 Committee meeting date move to Tues June 4th?

Committee members present agreed to move the June meeting to June 4, 2024.
The time will remain 8am

2. Construction Bid Update

- a. WAMS Loop, Entrance and Bus Drop-off area - Bid were opened on March 12. 6 bids were received, with the 3 lowest bids being similarly-priced. The lowest bid is unawardable, because the contractor does not have certain required certifications, as advised by construction counsel. DPMC and SDA classification are required as a predicate to bidding on school facilities work as per N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-26. The second lowest bid (~\$436,000) will be awarded. The project was budgeted at ~\$675,000. This will be paid from the Capital Reserve.
- b. District Flooring - We are using a state-approved contractor, and as such, do not have to go out to bid. The price is ~\$550,000. The project was budgeted at \$650,000. This will be paid from the Capital Reserve.
- c. RH Classroom HVAC - Awarded at the BOE meeting on March 11, 2024. This will be paid from the Capital Reserve. 40% of the cost will be reimbursed, because this project is a ROD Grant.
- d. RH ADA Walkway - Out to bid. Bid opening on April 16, 2024. The budget is ~\$200,000, and will be paid from the Capital Reserve.

3. Timeline Transportation Bid

Ms. Lubaska and the Del Val transportation team are working on the triple tier bid specifications. We want to be in a position to award the routes at the BOE meeting on April 29, 2024.

4. Aramark Renewals

a. Facilities

Last year, Aramark's maintenance workers unionized. Based on the increased cost of the new union contract, Aramark would not renew its maintenance contract with the District at the contractual increase rate (1.5%). Mr. Gerichter negotiated with Aramark and the union a 1-year deferral of the new union contract wages and benefits. However, Mr. Gerichter expects a ~16% increase in Aramark maintenance costs to the District for the following year.

Mr. Rollo presented a multi-year plan of [REDACTED] hiring District-employed maintenance staff. Mr. Mickley (Supervisor of Facilities) concurs. [REDACTED]

According to the plan, the District would seek to hire an additional HVAC technician immediately. Mr. Rollo expects this hire would reduce the District's spend on outside HVAC contractors by 30-40% (~\$300,000 was spent in 22-23 school year). [REDACTED]

The Committee supported Mr. Rollo's proposal and encouraged him to begin looking for the HVAC technician position [REDACTED] as soon as possible.

b. Cafeteria

The Food Service program runs as an enterprise fund (self-sustaining) and is not meant to generate a significant profit. Any profits are to be directed back into the food service program, which the District does. This year we have already spent \$315,237.14 upgrading kitchen equipment with an additional \$991,369.13 (2022 pricing) to be spent on further equipment upgrades. And, we plan to upgrade the serving lines, as well.

For next year, Aramark is guaranteeing a \$300,000 profit, which is based on the same lunch pricing as this year. Committee recalled Mr. Gerichter had recommended small annual increases at a finance committee meeting in 2023 and asked to confirm the amount of recommended increases. After the meeting, January 2023 minutes were reviewed and stated that the amount suggested was 5 to 10 cents.

5. Confirm Next Meeting Date & Time, April 25, 2024 at 8am

6. Reports

[February, 2024 Transfer Report](#)

[February, 2024 Wire Transfer Report](#)

[February, 2024 Investment Report](#)

[February, 2024 Board Secretary Report](#)

[February, 2024 Treasurer Report](#)

[March 21, 2024 Bills list](#)

[Draft of March 21, 2024 Finance Agenda](#)

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy Salmon