

Special Board Minutes (Draft)

Tuesday, May 28, 2024 @ 5:00 PM

Administration Conference Room

Present: James RunningFisher-Chair, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt (5:24PM). **Absent:** Thomas Gervais

Mr. RunningFisher called the meeting to order at 5:05pm

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the board agenda with no changes. Second by Ms. Salway Bullshoe. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Lockley Bremner voting for.

Public Comment: None.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Budget Review: Gwyn Andersen reviewed status of BPS money, Impact Aid, General Funds, obligations, negotiations, ESSER, transportation funds, construction, grants, bonding, extracurricular, attendance fund, adult education, flex fund, debt service, technology, building reserves, setaside, Impact Aid, food service, etc. Ms. Andersen explained the budget shortages and stated that tonight she is asking the board to approve to spend specific funds to cover Transportation and Retirement \$300,000.00 EL and \$50,000.00 HS. Transportation funds can only be used on buses and if the board approves the money can be moved into building reserve to use for safety. Ms. Andersen stated that the CD accounts are long-term and the district has used this money to make payroll and pay bills and not all of the money has been put back. The district has construction commitments that leave a negative \$3.6 million that have to be paid. ESSER I and II are completed. ESSER III ends in September and we are waiting for \$3.5 million amendment to be approved from OPI. Ms. Andersen explained that there will be some ESSER III funds to cover summer school, the last 3 payments for teachers, and other commitments: admin, childcare, Napi roof, BHS cooling system. Indirect cost rate 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 is on the agenda to be approved to use anywhere and if not needed, won't use. BHS cooling system is \$1,555,277 that can be extended, just waiting for OPI to approve ESSER funds. Board agreed by consensus to bring the high school cooling system for approval.

Michael Hoyt entered meeting @ 5:24 pm

There are two homeless grants that have to be spent by September 30. Irene Augare will need to know she has \$94,000. Superintendent Hall stated that ESSER has to go to the community every 6 months and asked if anyone in the audience wants to discuss ESSER funds. Ms. Andersen stated that these funds are designated for construction. There is still \$330,000 in ESSER II for Learning Loss, that includes SBE and Leadership.

Lester Johnson, community member, stated that he's been asked by the community why is all the emphasis on construction and not academics; focus on hiring additional math tutors and raise grades, only buildings are being built. Rebecca Rappold stated that those activities like hiring tutors, sped teachers, etc. were part of the ESSER plan and requires 20% towards loss of instruction. Ms. Andersen stated the district had \$20 million in ESSER to spend in 3 years. Mr. Gallup stated they hired a lot of people but they have to leave when the funds are spent. Ms. Andersen stated that the district spent heavily on construction side.

Ms. Andersen stated that next year it will be a struggle and the new superintendent will need a lot of support. Every location has a code that is required by the Federal Government to be used to determine if money is spent appropriately or if more is needed in one area. Ms. Andersen removed over 7000 bad codes out of the system and now there are 3,544. There is software that was paid for but is not used; we only need to put the data in the budget module and it creates the budgets and it will populate next year budgets that only need to be modified next year. The district will have to create some efficiencies. Ms. Andersen stated that next year the split for the district should be 70%-30%. The districts' state payment is based on certified teachers and BPS cannot count them if not certified. The amount per teacher is \$3700. Once elections are over, BPS should get with legislative people and be proactive and work on quality educators.

The Building Reserves has lot going on; safety money is in here, replace windows, HVAC, etc. School foods and supplies \$1 million. Had problems this year. last year subsidized by \$100,000. This year is \$700,000. Problems is lack of knowledge with new director. The district needs to look at purchasing fewer prepared foods and doing more cooking and put more parameters on this. Board members expressed concern in laying off 2 employees. Superintendent Hall stated they were given the option to work in other positions for the summer only. Ms. Andersen suggested generating an interest in the summer program by putting out flyers, advertisements, etc. miscellaneous program funds/grants are over by \$1 million and the district will use Impact Aid to cover these. These budgets need to be managed by the directors; give them training on managing their budgets, reconciling, closing POs, etc. There should be more communication.

Grants that expire 2023-2024: NAL/BNAS, Spokinapi, ESSER, Indian Language Immersion (OPI). BPS can be placed on high risk and needs to do things right in order to apply for grant opportunities. Ms. Andersen stated that there are still issues with money and OPI barely let us off from last years issues. There will be plenty of dings on the audit. The past auditor, Denning/Downey knew BPS was upside down and kept writing off that we would get money eventually.

Traffic Education can generate money based on student numbers and it can pay the teacher. The teacher has to be totally certified. This would be good for students in the community. MT HWY Patrol has funds to help with this. Lease Rental fund: The lease rental fund is funded by the trailer court, Napi apartments and trailer rentals and cannot have more than \$10,000 in the fund; there is \$65,000 right now and Reid is looking at spending this. Ms. Andersen was asked if the money can be used to buy trailer for the trailer park. Ms. Andersen stated yes, but the money goes back into the fund; BPS can check with the State board of Investments and pay overtime with the rental money on trailers for the trailer court.

Compensated absence fund is paid out of IA. There is a lot that goes into IA. Superintendent Hall stated she has to do an amendment.

Colonies do not generate IA funds; they do not live on trust land. They do pay taxes. There ANB generated is covering costs of their staff. Rebecca general fund allocation as well as title I part A. With those funds we staff the curriculum, technology comes from tech money. IA pays most of the administrators, as well as professional technical. IA Setaside is for new construction but can add for major maintenance items and not just new construction. Review the policy and expand how it can be used. Setaside has been spent down to \$1million. Ms. Andersen felt that BPS can sustain the Setaside.

Ms. Andersen recommended Maintenance having their own fuel source and not out of transportation.

Cell Phones need to be verified and recorded with dept, name, etc. Sandra Rivas stated that the Tech Dept has already decreased the costs there. Administration; directors, bus drivers; maintenance; security; nurses have school cell phones. Heidi Crawford spent significant hours reducing the bill. Total cost for cell phones is over \$80,000. Kristy can the cost of cell phones pay for the supper program staff. Ms. Andersen stated yes. Jennifer Wagner stated we would need to come with another plan for quick contact of people if there are no cell phones.

All departments should be responsible for cost of repairs, fuel, etc. the transportation mechanic can do the repairs but supplies and parts will be billed back to the dept. Ms. Andersen will bring forward a list of vehicles in the district.

Break at 7:03pm
Reconvene at 7:15pm

Payroll is controlling overtime and only approves by the superintendent; some professional technical contracts were moved back into the union contract and BPS needs to follow the law on this.

The Self Insurance plan is \$1,575 current rate. When have new numbers we will bring forward new costs.

Sped \$1.9million, food service \$700,000, childcare \$126,000, copy Center, student scholarships grant \$27,525 are all in the red and will be supplemented with IA. The scholarship account is missing \$27,000, which needs to be found and put back into the account. Credit cards are \$34,000 in the red and people that have outstanding receipts will not be allowed to use any credit cards if they do not bring in the receipts and the board did reaffirm that we can take the money out of their payroll. Federal Programs \$1 million, IRS Fine \$350,000 because forms were not filed with IRS will need to be paid. AARP child care grant will end. Interlocal agreement fund has \$265,418 and can be used for anything and if spent it is gone for good. Damage: EL General receive 9.2 million from state and tax; exp is \$10 million and is short \$1 million, which will be paid by IA. Budget needs to increase in transportation \$1.2 million, no levy. Food service \$793,000 short out of IA, \$1.3 million plus day care will be short \$500,000 in IA. Negotiations increase will be based on step but no other increases are listed.

Ms. Rappold reviewed the process of natural attrition to lessen staff positions and compared staffing and enrollment this year to 2017-2018 for equity in terms of staff, positions required, class sizes and support required by OPI. She is looking at this with the thought of not laying off anyone. Ms. Rappold reviewed the spreadsheets by color coding for licensed staff, principals, counselors, classroom teachers, specialist positions, and paraprofessionals which are only required if class size has over load in safety and supervision. Ms. Rappold met with principals and they do agree with process. There are many specialist positions that were added over the past 5 years that are not necessarily needed; KW has 5 and BES has 6. These will be moved to other buildings and others will not be filled. There was discussion on mental health providers and counselors who are not mental health providers. Ms. Andersen stated with the savings of attrition, BPS can bring to the table salary increases requested in negotiations. Certified wants 8-5-5 and classified wants 2-2-2. Ms. Andersen stated administration offered certified 3, 2, 2 and they want BPS to pay half their health insurance. Mr. Bremner stated that 8% was given to administrators and principals before. Superintendent stated this has not happened in her 7 years as superintendent. The highest given was 3% raise plus steps which is 2 or 3% for certified.

ITEMS OF ACTION

Approvals: Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve Resolution 2024-4E Elementary School Budget Amendment, Transportation and Retirement (\$300,000.00). Second by Ms. Salway Bullshoe. *Board discussion:* Board members agreed by consensus to advertise and approve at the next board meeting. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve Resolution 2024-4HS, High School Budget Amendment, Retirement and Debt Service (\$50,000.00) and CS Indirect Cost Rate 2023-2024. Second by Mr. Evans. *Board discussion:* Board members agreed to advertise and approve at the next board meeting. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Motion by Mr. Evans to approve CS Indirect Cost Rate 2023-2024 and Extended Contract for Rebecca Rappold, Superintendent Transition 2023-2024. Second by Ms. YellowOwl. *Board discussion:* Superintendent Hall stated that this is an extended contract for Ms. Rappold to begin as superintendent the week of June 21. Her current contract ends June 13, 2024. Ms. Rappold said she is okay using her daily rate as Curriculum Director for her extended contract. Mr. RunningFisher thanked Ms. Rappold for doing that. Mr. RunningFisher stated he met with Corrina and Rebecca and this transition plan is what both agreed on. Mr. RunningFisher stated that they did discuss everything with the school lawyer and did explain this to Lockley, Brian, James, Tom and Kristy. Ms. YellowOwl voiced concern that Mr. RunningFisher did not call and let her know about this. Mr. RunningFisher stated that the tribe was not working for a couple days and he could not reach her. Ms. YellowOwl stated that she is available by phone. Superintendent Hall and Ms. Rappold worked everything out with the lawyer who felt that it is a good idea that they have worked together on the transition since December and should keep going and also suggested that they put together the information they worked together on and what they accomplished and present it to the board and asked Ms. Rappold if this is correct information. Ms. Rappold clarified that she and Superintendent Hall have not been working together on the transition since December but they have worked together on staffing and budget related issues since December, which was not related to this superintendent transition agreement, but was a big part in rolling into the next school year and it is tied to teacher and instruction.

Ms. Rappold stated that in the meeting with the lawyer they talked about pieces that need to be transitioned, such as timelines to those items that have to be in place and cannot wait until the week before the end of June. Ms. Rappold stated that she has scheduled meetings to discuss these issues as well as working the next couple weeks with hiring committees and interviews for position of AD. Corrina stated that Rebecca will setup the interview committees and she will sit on these committees and Superintendent Hall will make her recommendations for hire to the board; all hires and transfers will be approved by Rebecca and submitted to the board by the superintendent. Mr. Bremner reiterated this process and asked if the SpEd Director, Tech Director and the Athletic Director will be new hires and if Ms. Rappold will interview and recommend to the superintendent to bring to the board. Ms. Rappold stated yes, and they have 9 applications for the AD position and she will select the committee and the number of interview candidates to be brought to the board for hiring. Superintendent Hall stated she will review all staff discipline with Rebecca and they will be reviewing grievances, policy updates, budgets, facility walk throughs, handbooks. They are working on Negotiations already and all passwords, all Grant access, and important contact names and phone numbers will be shared with Ms. Rappold, confidentially. Mr. Bremner stated concern about Superintendent Hall's email and felt that the superintendent should not have any access to email account. Superintendent stated that she can take care of that when she is done it will be shut off. Travis Miller is monitoring all emails and Superintendent Hall is not receiving any new emails; Ms. Rappold will have access to the superintendents' emails and files. Superintendent Hall will send all information to Ms. Rappold, Gwyn Andersen and Sandra Rivas for DA Davidson, bonding, etc. Mr. RunningFisher asked Ms. Rappold if she is comfortable with the transition and noted that Corrina is the superintendent until the board removes her or until she leaves on 6/21/24 and asked Superintendent Hall if that is correct. Superintendent Hall stated, yes that is my last day. Ms. Rappold stated she is comfortable with this. Mr. RunningFisher stated, you guys just heard them, she is giving the reins to Rebecca Rappold, pretty much, and the lawyer thought that was a good deal.

Mr. Bremner asked "did you guys ever hear of the term Lame Duck. Mr. RunningFisher stated, yah. Mr. Bremner stated well that's what she is right now. Superintendent Hall stated she don't feel like a lame duck, she's not just sitting here in the office, she is trying to help, trying to support Rebecca and this district and all these people in here know that; she stated she is not sitting around being a lame duck and felt offended that Mr. Bremner said that. Superintendent Hall stated she will continue doing her job and is not going to be a lame duck and if something happens that is not good, or illegal, she is going to stand up for the district and for our kids and staff. Mr. Bremner stated if you are friendly Corrina, you're going to get a certain treatment but if you're not, you're going to get another treatment. Mr. RunningFisher stated to Mr. Bremner, that is your opinion. Superintendent Hall stated and we have it on record right now, so keep it up. Mr. RunningFisher called for the votel. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Kristy Bullshoe, Michael Hoyt voting for all and Lockley Bremner voting for item a and opposed item b.

Mr. RunningFisher stated he is going to say something here and don't care if you guys like it or not. I took this chairmanship because our board was split. There are people saying stuff. Ms. YellowOwl made a comment and Mr. RunningFisher stated this is for you. I thought if I was chairman, and maybe I don't know it all, but I'm going to do the best I can; but this badmouthing us is not helping us. Were a team and need to work together but there is some of you that go home and bad mouth and that got back to me.

Mr. Gallup asked to make a motion to adjourn at 8:34 pm. Ms. Salway Bullshoe seconded. Motion passed with James RunningFisher, James Evans, Donna YellowOwl, Brian Gallup, Kristy Salway Bullshoe, Lockley Bremner, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Respectfully submitted:

Carlene Adamson, Board Secretary

James RunningFisher, Board Chairperson

Sandra Rivas, District Clerk