

BUILDINGS/GROUNDS & TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Date: January 18, 2018
To: Board of Education
From: Lori Ade

BUILDINGS/GROUNDS

Facilities Committee

The Facilities Committee met January 10th. Minutes from the January meeting are attached to this month's board report. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the High School Library.

Strategic Plan

The updated Strategic Plan was reviewed by the Facilities Committee. It is being recommended to take on projects as money is available in the Capital Projects Fund. For Fiscal Year 2019, there is approximately \$300,000 in hopeful projects. The board will review this plan in further detail at the January board Retreat prior to Monday's Board Meeting.

Hourly Substitute Employees

From our latest substitute custodian posting this past month, we received three applications. During our Facilities Committee meeting, we discussed raising the hourly rate of substitute custodian pay to entice people to apply.

Currently, substitute custodian hourly pay rate is \$9.50 per hour. If we increased the hourly rate for substitute custodians to the maximum level (starting rate of pay for this position is \$12.91/hour), then the district could realize an estimated \$1,900 increase annually per substitute custodian (based on working 595 hours annually). Substitute employees are limited to less than 600 hours annually.

I would like the board to consider raising the hourly rate in order to not only entice applicants for these positions, but to also keep those applicants with the district. We can discuss this further at the board meeting.

Life Safety Reports

Attached to this month's report are the Life Safety Inspection Reports for all schools. They are pretty self-explanatory, but we can discuss at Monday's meeting if needed.

TRANSPORTATION

In reviewing the Transportation Fund's current status, I cannot, in good faith, recommend any transportation purchases for the next fiscal year at this time. It's very disappointing to not be able to look at any purchase or lease right now (both buses and vans), but until the State changes the timing of sending Transportation payments, we have to be fiscally responsible with the money that we do have.

As of December, 2017, the Transportation Fund had a balance of \$138,000. With payroll averaging about \$46,000 per month, it appears that the Board will probably need to approve a Resolution to transfer money again at the February meeting.

We did end up receiving all 4 State payments from LAST Fiscal Year, but those payments were not realized until this fiscal year. We haven't received any payments for THIS Fiscal Year yet. At this point, if the State continues funding at the current pace, we could be looking at receiving only one, maybe two payments before this year ends June 30.

In looking ahead, we have \$101,353 in lease/purchase payments due in FY '19, so it makes it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to look at additional payments without the funds coming in to cover costs.

The positives to take from this whole State Funding dilemma is the fact that we maintain one of the best fleets around. We are truly fortunate to have this building to house the majority of our buses, to have a full time mechanic on duty to maintain our vehicles, and a staff that takes great pride in the vehicle they drive!

I will continue to watch the Transportation Fund and how the State funding is flowing, and then bring other recommendations to the Board as soon as possible.