

Coal City Community Unit School District #1
Board Study Session of the Whole Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 28, 2018

Roll Call

President Miller called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Coal City Community Unit School District #1 District Office Board Room. In attendance were Board members Robert Bianchetta, Jeff Emerson, Mary Gill, Shawn Hamilton, Quint Harmon, Chuck Lander, and Ken Miller. Superintendent Kent Bugg, CSBO Jason Smith, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Tammy Elledge, Director of Special Populations Sandy Rakes and board secretary Karen Vota were also in attendance.

Discussion on Bond Refinance

Elizabeth Hennessy from Raymond James was in attendance to discuss the potential restructuring of the school district's current bond debt. Raymond James has been retained by the Board to serve as their advisor in such issues. The Board is investigating a potential restructuring of current bond debt in an attempt to both shorten the bond repayment period to save interest costs and to take advantage of lower interest rates. Three different restructuring models were presented for Board consideration. The Board will consider this further at their March 7 Board meeting.

Discussion on Transportation Needs for 2018-2019

After meeting with the Transportation Committee, CSBO Jason Smith and Transportation Director Sandy Rakes discussed options for transportation services for 2018-2019. Hazardous Bus Routes - Due to new sidewalk construction on the east side of the elementary school, the area no longer qualifies as a hazardous route under IDOT regulations to the ES, IS or the HS. At the March 7 Board meeting, the Board will be taking action to submit to IDOT that this area is no longer hazardous, which will make students in that area ineligible for bus service. The school district will be sending notification letters to parents whose students have been eligible for bus service in the past, but will no longer be eligible next school year. Alternate Routing - The school district has traditionally allowed students to have more than one bus stop, which means that a single student could be rostered on more than one bus. This results in an increase in transportation costs to the school district. At the recommendation of the Transportation Committee, and in attempt to be more efficient, the Board is investigating options to reduce multiple bus stops for students. Activity Bus Lease - The Board is considering the purchase of two white activity buses to offset the cost of charters with Illinois Central. Data was presented to the Board to show that the district could lease two activity buses for the same cost as we currently pay in mileage for the one owned by the bus company. More information will be presented to the Board for potential action.

Discussion on District Architectural Services

One of the Board's Strategic Planning goals for this was year is to review relevant professional services. The Board has decided to explore options for future architectural services.

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Discussion on Preliminary Educational Benefit Cooperative (EBC) Renewal

The Board took action to join the Educational Benefit Cooperative (EBC) on May 3, 2017 through insurance broker Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. The EBC is an entity created under Illinois state law, which allows school districts to join together for the purpose of purchasing insurance. The EBC, established in 1984, began with eight school districts and has grown to current membership of 110 school districts, 96 individual members and 3 sub pools. The purpose of the EBC is to provide economies of scale and risk pooling that will allow members greater long-term financial stability than purchasing insurance products individually in the commercial insurance market. Each member retains the ability to create and change their PPO, HMO, Dental and Life plan design, which is often required by the nature of bargained contracts. Preliminary renewal projections for 2018-2019 were reviewed. Current industry average for health insurance premium increases is between 8-10%. Our current 2018-2019 renewal received from the EBC is at 2%.

K-12 Fees for the 2018-2019 School Year

Each year at this time, the Board reviews registration fees for the next school year. A fee history was reviewed along with the current Building Use Request form. All registration fees will remain unchanged. As required by the food service program audit the district experienced about eight years ago, the Board continues to gradually increase school lunch prices in an attempt to match the Federal reimbursement rate. For 2018-2019, all school lunch prices will increase by 20 cents. The Board requested a review of summer school costs, which will be presented at the March 7 Board meeting.

Finance Reports

The monthly revenue and expenditure summary reports for January were reviewed. Detailed reports were available in the Business Office for review prior to the meeting. The Treasurer's report, investment report and lunch program report for January were also reviewed.

Open

- a) Items not known at agenda preparation time – none.
- b) Sharing Ideas / Information – none.

Closed Session

At 7:11 p.m. a motion made by Mr. Lander and seconded by Mr. Harmon to go into closed session for the purpose of considering information regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees and an individual student issue.

Roll Call

Ayes: Chuck Lander, Quint Harmon, Robert Bianchetta, Jeff Emerson, Mary Gill, Shawn Hamilton, Ken Miller
Nays:
Motion Carried.

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When the Board returned to open session, President Miller called the regular meeting back to order at 8:23 p.m. with the board members answering roll call present: Robert Bianchetta, Jeff Emerson, Mary Gill, Shawn Hamilton, Quint Harmon, Chuck Lander, Ken Miller.

Adjournment

Mr. Hamilton moved and Mr. Lander seconded to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. the Board Study Session of the Whole meeting. President Miller asked if there was any opposition to the motion, hearing none, considers the motion approved.

Kenneth P. Miller, President

Mary Gill, Secretary