

MEETING NOTES
FINANCE COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200
September 9, 2022

A meeting of the Finance Committee of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District 200, DuPage County, Illinois, was called to order at 7:30 AM on Friday, September 9, 2022, at the School Service Center, 130 W Park Ave, Wheaton, IL.

PRESENT

Board Members: Ms. Susan Booton
Mr. Dave Long

Staff: Dr. Brian O’Keeffe, Asst. Superintendent of Business Operations
Mr. Jordan Thorse, Comptroller/Treasurer

Dr. O’Keeffe reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Discussion and Review of FY 23 Budget

Dr. Brian O’Keeffe provided a review of the final budget, specifically any changes from the tentative budget that was posted.

There was information presented and discussion on the following:

- Education Fund – CPPRT, changes in tax law, reimbursements related to any orphanage or private facilities for special education students, federal and state level grants, salaries – substitutes, increases in the hiring of some staff, changes in benefits, professional services (cyber liability), supplies, capital (mostly attributable to federal grants), outside tuition costs related to special education needs. Recap – projecting a roughly \$40K surplus.
- Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Fund – minor changes related to interest earnings, salary and benefits, purchased services, and capital side. Recap – projecting less than \$1MM surplus.
- Debt Services – the only change is in interest earnings.
- Transportation Fund – change in interest earnings, increase in expected transportation reimbursement from the State, increase in expenses due to the need for additional buses (extracurriculars), gas escalator.
- IMRF, Working Cash, Capital Projects – anticipated reduction in IMRF rate; capital projects – architectural fees, construction costs; changes in interest earnings as related to working cash; anticipated tax payment expected.
- Overall Recap - roughly \$1.4MM surplus. Likely, the O&M surplus will be moved to fund capital projects in March-May.

There were questions/discussion on the following:

- Reasons for the tuition increase for outplaced students in the budget.
- Capital projects funding – include playgrounds? LLC?
- Transportation as it relates to extracurriculars at the MS and HS level – shortage?
- Fuel escalator – was this in the original transportation contract?
- Working cash and where it is reflected in the budget.

Discussion of PushCoin Fee Payment System

Dr. O’Keeffe and Mr. Thorse discussed the District’s consideration of moving from MySchoolBucks (MSB) to PushCoin. There was information presented and discussion on the following:

- MSB is the current platform for student payments. There is a separate company that controls the meal side.
- There have been issues with the MSB system and what was promised. The District is struggling to receive automatically generated monthly statements for families.
- PushCoin works with a lot of school districts in the area. PushCoin handles fees, registration fees, the lunch program, is web-based, and is a user-friendly system.
- Any transition would require huge communication next spring.
- Fees being paid to MSB and what would the District pay for PushCoin – annual fee vs. monthly fee, processing and transaction fees, gateway fees.
- Variables that come with integrating PushCoin to get it up and running – including barcode scanners, pin pads, training hours, and setup.
- Cost differential for the first year, in contrast to years following.
- PushCoin would allow a more manageable system, allow schools to have cloud-based technology, provides the District with monthly statements, and should reduce the number of calls from parents (as questions will be answered by the system itself vs. staff member).

There were questions/discussion on the following:

- Expecting an increase in lunches, therefore cost differential would be smaller.
- Not every parent would have to use PushCoin – can still pay with cash, and eChecks are free.
- Transaction fees – would apply whether they use eCheck or not.
- The rollout for the transition to PushCoin would be June 1, 2023.
- No cancellation fee for MSB.
- Refunds – if a debit/credit card is used for payment, can credit the account.
- The monthly gateway fee would be for the length of the contract.
- The potential use of barcode scanners and pin pads for football games, school events, etc.
- Could the money be directed to the PTA?
- PushCoin – there is a wallet side for lunch and a fee side separately – the ability to move funds throughout. Setting up individual school stores.
- Providing information to parents and setting up notifications for parents.

Public Comment

None

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 AM.