

Twinsburg Board of Education Finance Subcommittee Meeting

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 ~ 5:00 p.m.

Due to Governor DeWine's "Stay at Home Order" this meeting was held virtually with livestream access

Meeting Notes

In Attendance: Mark Curtis, Rob Felber, Marty Aho, Kathi Powers, Chad Welker, Jen Farthing

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes from the November 21, 2019 Finance Subcommittee Meeting were approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Student Fees, 2020/2021:

- Discussion of projected student fees for the 2020/2021 school year with comparison to the 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 school years. Proposed increases for grades 4, 5, and 6 from \$90.00 to \$95.00 to support additional testing that will take place and the cost of consumables at these grade levels. A new course for Project Lead the Way is being planned (Computer Integrated Manufacturing) and would have a fee of \$17.50; the cost of goggles would increase \$.50. An increase for Spanish II and III was proposed to cover the cost of two readers that would belong to the student (Spanish novels), \$15.00 total for two books.
- The Music Production and Design course fee cannot be decided on yet due to the uncertainty of the course being held.
- The purchase of an online AP prep program was proposed. This would be one fee and allow students to use in all AP classes; unlimited use.
- Online tools requested for purchase – edPuzzle and PearDeck – per student cost for the year. These costs would be added on to student fees.
- \$5.00 Chromebook fee added on to fees for Dodge students.
- RBC Chromebooks – suggestion is 1:1 instead of cart model – in preparation for uncertainty of next year. Repair fee would be \$30.00 the same as the current high school fee.

Pay-to-Participate Fees, 2020/2021:

- In calculating the costs for Pay-To-Participate Fees consideration is given to: cost for supplemental coaching positions; transportation (3 year average); officials fees; entry fees; facility rental fees; and equipment costs. These factors make up the total expenditure for the program. Average participation is then considered (4-year average) and 25% of that cost is what makes up the Pay-To-Participate Fee for each activity. The 25% of total costs dates back to the 2011 Operational Change Plan and has been used ever since.
- Students eligible for free and reduced lunches have the option for discounted fees.
- Committee discussed Bowling, Gymnastics, Hockey and Tennis. These are the only four (4) sports that have offsite facility rental fees. Rental fees for all but Hockey were being paid by the District. To stay consistent with all sports, the Board decided in November 2019 that the District should pay the facility fees associated with the use of the ice rink that was previously being paid by the parents of the students on the hockey team.
- Biggest differences in proposed fees were seen for Gymnastics and Hockey. The increase in number of students participating in Gymnastics has contributed to fees being less and the pick up of facility rental fees by the District is the contributing factor to lower Hockey fees.

Rental Fees, 2020/2021:

- There are a few categories of rental usage classes: one is for the District support organizations such as Booster Groups, and PTA's that meet the requirements of Board Policy 9211; Class A is for support organizations that are not officially recognized by Policy 9211; and Class B is everyone else.
- District support organizations that meet the requirements of Board Policy 9211 are not charged any rental fee if using facilities Mondays through Saturdays. If used on a Sunday, costs would be charged for staff needs outside the normal schedule.
- Contractual agreements with unions need to be recognized. Custodians need to be present if using the building; kitchen staff need to be present if using the kitchens; security may also be required depending on the event.
- No increases to the Rental Fee Schedule are proposed for the 2020/2021 school year.
- FMX will continue to be used for all event scheduling including in-district events/meetings or any group requesting to use a building space whether there will or will not be a fee charged.

Blended Learning, 2020/2021:

- With the support of the Board, Twinsburg City School District has successfully rolled out the Blended Learning classrooms.
- Blended learning classrooms give the students the opportunity to learn in small groups. Unfortunately this cannot be as successful in the virtual learning environment.
- The District at this point is struggling with what Blended Learning will look like in the 2020/2021 school year due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- If an expansion to this initiative was granted, Wilcox would have an additional four (4) Blended Learning 1st grade classrooms and two (2) additional kindergarten classrooms. Each classroom costs approximately \$6,900 for furniture and equipment. If the 6 ft distancing rule were in place, classrooms would have to be converted back to the traditional furniture.
- Cost to equip classrooms at Dodge would be approximately \$52,000.00.
- Total cost of furniture to equip all the classrooms mentioned for Blended Learning would be approximately \$117,000.
- Turnaround time to purchase and receive equipment is currently the end of July (if ordered in May). If purchased later, arrival time would be into September and October.
- If additional flexible furniture was purchased now for the roll out of the additional classrooms and the directive is for the 6 ft social distancing, classrooms would need to be equipped with traditional seating and any existing or newly purchased flexible furniture would need to be stored.
- Students will eventually be back in the buildings in a normal fashion and will need the flexible furniture. There was agreement that the District should continue to invest in the future, purchase the items need to support the Blended Learning classrooms and plan once a direction is given for the start of the school year.
- Blended Learning training and professional development can continue to take place as planned over the summer using virtual means.
- The younger students use touch screen chrome books. These are a slightly higher cost than the chrome books used for older students. Approximately 30 touchscreen chrome books would be needed for the additional classrooms. With the shortage of devices across the country, a recommendation was to purchase the technology items instead of waiting and risk the chance of not being able to get the devices in time for the start of school.

Superintendent Powers will coordinate a date to hold a work session to review these details with the Board in full.

The Board will continue to be mindful of the current pandemic and the circumstances that may now being

affecting the families of the District. They will continue to be sensitive to situations that may have occurred for families because of COVID-19 and be willing to provide help and services when needed.

Mark Curtis motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Meeting Minutes Approved: September 10, 2020