



# FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Friday, May 10, 2024

8:30 a.m.

Committee Members: Michele Mencer, Chair  
Dr. Camille Cerciello, Ellen De Pinto, Justina Ryan

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent  
Jason Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary  
Don Race, Facilities Manager

## 1. Potential Referendum / Expiring Debt

- a. Presentation by Anthony (Tony) Solimine, Attorney at Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer - Anthony Solimine provided a summary of the referendum process. Since our district has debt of approx. \$2M/year that will expire in 2025, we may want to consider a potential referendum to present to the voters next year. We will continue to discuss this over the next several months.
- b. Suggested timelines if proceeds:
  - i. *Now - December 2024*: Compile construction projects for inclusion in referendum
  - ii. *January - February 2025*: Architect drafts required paperwork for state submittals
  - iii. *March - August 2025*: Architect and financial advisors prepare backend paperwork for referendum, public campaign for vote
  - iv. *September 2025* (or December, January, March, November) - Referendum on ballot

**2. Preschool Expansion ROD Grant** - The committee agreed to apply for the ROD (Regular Operating District) Grant to support preschool expansion. We would be eligible to apply for approx. \$500,000 which could possibly help fund upgrades at district preschool locations.

## 3. Summer 2024 Capital Projects

- a. 2023-2024 ROD Grant - HVAC installation scheduled for RMS gym (Pravco) - will be completed the end of June
- b. RMS Main Office
  - i. Roof (Pravco) - initial kickoff meeting held, recurring construction meetings bi-weekly in June
  - ii. General construction, HVAC (Murray) - same as above - all set to begin at end of school year
  - iii. Furniture (Soyka) - design meetings with main office staff ongoing, budget finalized
  - iv. Logistics - moves, preparation for September 2024 being implemented
  - v. Communications Plan
- c. RMS LED Classroom Lighting - work scheduled - will also be completed at end of school year
- d. IT Switch & Access Point Project - bid approved, 40% reimbursed by federal funds, scheduled - upgrade equipment
- e. First Responder Radio Enhancement - equipment ordered by vendor, kickoff meeting soon
- f. Private Preschool Providers New Classrooms (7) - POs created, work scheduled

## 4. 2024-2025 Rates

- a. Substitutes & Surrounding Area - Committee agreed to keep substitute rate the same as last year (\$125/day)
  - i. Benefits waiting period - will be 90 days instead of 60 days
- b. Non-staff tuition rate - \$4,200 in 2023-2024 - will increase to \$4,500 in 2024-2025
- c. Preschool rate will stay the same as non-staff tuition rate. This will be for an employee's child to attend our preschool as a tuition student.

5. **2024-25 Budget Communication** - Township Meeting & Other Methods - Tabled
6. **Prescriptions Transition Update** - Tabled
7. **Finance Agenda Items / Bill List** - Preschool Expansion Aid transfers, transportation agreements (various), Lowes donation, Child Assault Prevention grant - \$3.5K, RTAA sidebar (new Assistant Principal RMS), construction project vendor resolutions (if any), SEMI COI (June 11), Sustainable Jersey, auction/disposal
8. **Next meeting is planned for:** July 18 at 9:30 a.m. and **August date TBD.**  
*Tentative Topics: solar, referendum, capital projects*