

**Kirtland Local Schools  
Finance Meeting Minutes  
January 30, 2012**

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Meeting was called to order by Tom Meyer at 5:55p.m.

December 2011 Financial Reports:

Mr. Cosgrove- asked about the sewer tie in and ground work.

Mr. Meyer- thinks we should share construction breakdown of costs with the public to prove we would have been on ballot sooner if we had not been fiscally responsible.

An additional line item should be added to report for budget on/off.

Mr. Cosgrove- asked the question about having financials on website for accountability purposes and transparency.

Mr. Barrett -doesn't feel it would be a good thing, he thinks it is better when public requests it and then he can go over financials with them.

Mrs. Torok- thought maybe something more general could be posted.

Mr. Meyer -feels it would not be an issue to post financials, but what would be better would be a budget sheet showing how we are in deficit spending. But before anything is posted the committee needs to know how to answer questions that could be brought up.

Cost controls and efficiency:

Mr. Meyer-thinks before we put another levy on the ballot we should show cost savings in place so far and what is to be put in place for future. He also shared an idea about having community leaders coming into district on committees to give ideas about cost cutting measures. Superintendent could appoint committees.

Mr. Cosgrove- these groups could look at what we have done or what else we could do for cost containment. This could be an independent verification to consider ideas for recommendation. These would be community volunteers to review business operations not academics.

Mrs. Torok-we should check other districts who have out-sourced services.

Mr. Meyer-groups would be for: food service, transportation, facilities/maintenance and workers comp, only the business operations side. District has a poor workers comp. history. Payroll and IT could also be evaluated.

Mr. Meyer-superintendent to call community volunteers and go over expectations with them.

Mr. Barrett-new state report card compares financials to achievement.

Mr. Cosgrove-wondered how state came up with numbers for report card section about amount of monies spent in classrooms.

Mr. Meyer-we could also have another committee that would evaluate play to participate and how other districts handle it.

Mr. Cosgrove-doesn't agree with play to participate and fees should not be charged for clubs.

Mrs. Torok-still thinks it should be evaluated. And feels extracurricular clubs are important for kids and fees might hinder them from joining.

Mr. Cosgrove-put play to participation fees in perspective, is it worth it? Pros/cons.

Mr. Meyer-wondered how donations are targeted and used within the district, thinks we should share with community how they can help with district needs.

Mr. Cosgrove-wants to make sure all purchases fit in with district academic plan.

Mrs. Torok-wants community groups to feel a part of district decisions.

Mr. Meyer-employees could have suggestion boxes or think tanks to give ideas about district saving ideas.

Mr. Meyer-principals need to rank supplemental and teachers on how cost effective their groups or clubs are.

Mrs. Torok-all clubs and groups need to be evaluated on participation and if it contributes to overall academic program.

Mr. Meyer-what accountability is in place for club/supplemental advisors who are receiving supplemental pay?

Mr. Barrett-principals should be able to set goals and see progress.

Mr. Cosgrove-process for evaluating supplemental and groups need to be implemented by all principals.

Levy:

Mr. Meyer-one combined levy on ballot in August.

Mr. Meyer-would like to see a spreadsheet that shows spending at current rate with no cuts.

Mr. Cosgrove-would like to see spreadsheet that shows if the 5.8 levy fails. Deficient spending currently 1.6 million, next year 2.2 million.

Mr. Barrett-could meet with groups like boosters to share district financial status then meet with community. State of Schools, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Cosgrove-give financial facts, laying groundwork at meeting and course of campaign. Give financial reality.

Mr. Barrett-gave merit based pay example as cost savings measure. Said he would start discussions with teachers.

Mr. Cosgrove-can we settle with teachers in time to decide amount needed for levy?

Mr. Barrett-said community wants to see bleacher issue resolved will talk at Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

#### Teacher Negotiations:

Mr. Cosgrove-doesn't want to have board members on negotiating team.

Mrs. Torok-shows sense of goodwill not to have board members on team. Can have 5 on team.

Mr. Cosgrove-does not want to see us against them but all working towards the same goal to solve the same problems.

Mr. Meyer-thinks there should be a fresh team with a fresh approach. Talk more at the Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

#### Treasurer Search:

Mr. Meyer-? interim after Lowell until November or permanent to help with negotiations and levy?

Mr. Cosgrove-can the board get the necessary information and reports needed to get by until a permanent treasurer is hired?

Mr. Torok-we would need to assess if district even needs a full-time treasurer.

Mr. Barrett-says payroll software exists that would cut down on payroll data entry, that current state software makes cumbersome. It would free up some of payroll clerks time to help out with other tasks.

Mr. Meyer-more talk about interim treasurer on Feb, 6<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

Mr. Barrett-have finance committee get approval to talk to interim candidate.

Mr. Meyer-schedule interviews with candidate to see if this might be an option for district.

Meeting Frequency and Timing-

Mr. Meyer-3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Mrs. Torok  
9:30 p.m.