

The Randolph Township Board of Education held a Finance, Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting on Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at 5:00 pm Randolph High School Library, 511 Millbrook Avenue, Randolph, New Jersey.

ROLL CALL

The following Board members were present: Board President Ronald Conti, Board Vice President Joseph Faranetta, Board members Susan DeVito, Allison Manfred, Robert A. Soni, Jeanne Stifelman, and Chairperson Tammy MacKay.

Board member Anne Standridge arrived at 5:27 pm and Christopher C. Treston was absent.

The following administrators were present: Ms. Jennifer Fano, Superintendent, Mr. Gerald M. Eckert, Board Business Administrator / Board Secretary, Mr. Stephen Frost, Assistant Board Business Administrator / Assistant Board Secretary and Board Counsel Marc H. Zitomer was also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Others in attendance: Ms. Azurmendi, Mr. Pfouts, Mr. Somjen and Mr. Collella.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Somjen presented an update on the referendum projects.

Ms. Stifelman asked about the ceiling height and floor type of the multipurpose room.

Mr. Somjen stated the height would be twenty-two feet and the floor would be wood.

Dr. Soni asked about accessibility of the field in terms of the width of a ramp.

Dr. Soni asked how many additional stations were gained in the culinary arts renovations at Randolph Middle School. Mr. Somjen stated one additional station were gained.

Ms. MacKay asked what is being done with the current concession stand. Ms. Fano stated that it was being left in place until its feasibility for a different use could be determined.

Mr. Frost and Ms. Azurmendi gave a presentation on the 2019-2020 changes to the before and aftercare programs offered by the community school.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Ms. Manfred asked if offering food can be optional.

Mr. Frost stated that food has been offered in previous years and that the change this year is that the food offerings will follow the State nutritional guidelines.

Dr. Soni asked what the cost difference was for administrative staffing and what the surplus of the program will be used for.

Mr. Frost stated that administrative staffing is up 19.2% but will ultimately be based on revenue. He then stated that the intent is to reinvest the surplus back into the program.

Ms. Stifelman stated that the rates for these programs have not increased in four years and stated that the minimum wage is increasing.

Mr. Faranetta stated that he was impressed with the improvements and the schedule for the program. He stated that planning for the program and staffing will get better with rate changes being communicated earlier in future years.

Mr. Frost stated that he and Ms. Azurmendi are planning on presenting a plan for the future of the community school programs at a later FFT committee meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eleven members of the public spoke against the increases to the before and after care program rates. Their comments focused on the following:

- Can surplus be used to offset rate increases?
- Timing of announcement of rate increases.
- Justification for increased rates.
- Can Board revisit the rates?
- Lack of transparency.
- Why is food and enrichment mandatory, should offer as an extra opt-in.
- Drop in forty-eight hour notice provision is unreasonable, especially for first responders.
- Can there be a discount for early pickup from aftercare.

Mr. Frost stated that the community school is working on ways to get input from parents for the programs.

Ms. Azurmendi stated that she looked back at parental feedback from the 2018-19 program and the majority were complaining about how bad the program was.

After a brief discussion the Board agreed to have the FFT committee and administration review options for the pricing of the before and aftercare programs and share with the full Board at the August 20 Board meeting.

Mr. Eckert provided an update on the installation of bus cameras. Ms. DeVito asked if it was possible to put signage on busses indicating that the busses were “monitored” by camera. Mr. Eckert advised he would look into the issue.

Mr. Eckert and Mr. Frost reviewed plans to create a fundraising bank account to comply with audit guidelines. Dr. Soni asked about the standard for organizations, and Mr. Eckert and Mr. Frost provided that information would be forthcoming.

Mr. Eckert provided details on the sale of the second series of bonds from the 2018 referendum and the tax savings as a result of lower interest rates.

ADJOURNMENT

Board member Tammy MacKay made a motion seconded by Mr. Faranetta to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 pm. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald M. Eckert
Board Secretary