

BAC MEETING MINUTES 10/23/07

The meeting began at 7:05 in the District office conference room.

The following members attended: Liz Morrison, Joe Accurso, Alan Sacher, Linda King, Paul Killian, Frank Christiano and Ed Hudson. From the district was Ron Sacks. There were no visitors.

The following topics were discussed:

- Review and approval of the BAC meeting minutes from 10/2/07.
- Mr. Sacks distributed a list of the 336 districts that belong to NYSIR, the districts insurance provider. He explained how premiums are budgeted and how they are estimated until the actual cost comes in which is after the budget is voted on. He talked about how excess budgeted premium funds can be transferred to another budget line or flow into the fund balance for the next year. In recent years there has not been a shortage budgeted for premiums. Mr. Sacks also talked about the fact that transportation insurance is the only insurance that is aided by the state. There was a review of how state aided items are broken down in the budget.
- Mr. Sacks distributed a handout explaining the purchasing of textbooks and how textbook aide is calculated. The state's aide amount is \$57.30 per student per year. They multiply \$57.30 times the number of students and then they look at the dollar amount the district spent for books the previous year. The district receives in aide the lesser of the 2 amounts. The same principle applies to computer software at a rate of \$14.98 per student. These dollar amounts are based on last years state aide rate and could change for this year. The committee discussed the selling back of old books, how new textbooks must be purchased every time curriculum changes and how the life span of a textbook depends on the grade level and subject. A good portion of the elementary schools budget's for textbooks are spent on support materials for any curriculum changes and are reviewed by Paul Kopp and Jill Gierasch for approval. The cost of high school level calculators and batteries for the calculators are not aided by the state and are budgeted as supplies. The committee will decide at a future meeting if they will review textbook expenses verses the amount of state aide received.
- Mr. Sacks reviewed the use of BOCES. The areas they cover, the cost to the district and the state aide received. The committee asked the district for a breakdown of BOCES expenses and will discuss it at a future meeting.

- Frank Christiano reviewed the numbers he has compiled regarding clerical and custodial overtime. Mr. Sacks will provide the committee with a breakdown of clerical and custodial overtime based on budgeted verses actual and the BAC, at a future meeting, will discuss how these costs might be reduced. The committee would like to have Mr. Mike Bergen attend a BAC meeting to help answer related questions about reducing the cost of custodial overtime. Specifically, there has been a rate increase for new hired subs in the custodial department. The committee would like to know how this increase in sub pay will be utilized to help reduce the significant current custodial overtime, in turn reducing the overtime budget. Frank has requested the dollar amount of overtime used by the custodial dept so far this year.
- Alan Sacher reviewed his findings in regards to course offerings and student enrollment in those courses. He talked specifically about the science research areas, grades 9-10 vs. 11-12 and the pattern of drop off at the upper level. He discussed areas where student enrollment is low, and maybe should be transferred to other areas. His findings show almost half of AP students don't take the AP exam. The discussion by the committee is how the adjustment of course offerings would or could impact the budget. The BAC has requested Paul Kopp to attend one of their meetings to address some of these questions. Alan has requested an updated run of course enrollment after the 1st marking period ends.
- The committee has made a request for a report of teacher staffing numbers by department over the last 2 years.

The meeting ended at 9:10 and the next meeting is scheduled for 11/13/07 at 7:00 at the district office.