

MSD OF NEW DURHAM TOWNSHIP

School Board Meeting

Minutes of September 29, 2017

Executive Session: 4:30 p.m.

Those in Attendance:

Board Members

Mark Parkman
Vicki Hannon
Karen Jedrysek

Staff

Dr. Curtiss Strietelmeier

Absent:

Lynn Wilson
Gurpreet Singh

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Mark Parkman, Vicki Hannon, and Karen Jedrysek were present. Lynn Wilson and Gurpreet Singh were absent.

Old Business

A. Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract – Action

Dr. Strietelmeier reported regarding the solar project, you cannot work a contract directly with the people doing the installation. You have to work through a guaranteed savings provider. The RFQ was done for a guaranteed savings provider. Dr. Strietelmeier was contacted by three different people but only had one who provided a response. The one who provided the response was Performance Services. They are probably the largest corporation doing this work in the area. They have a very good relationship with Midwest Solar as well. He met with Tony Kuykendahl from Performance Services. He brought documentation that was due on Tuesday by 1:00 p.m. at approximately 12:30 on Tuesday. There are a couple of things that are different than what Kevin had discussed at the last meeting. The keys were that the idea that Performance Services expectations of savings for the first year and on, they had estimated a lower increase each year from NIPSCO. Kevin was 3.5 I believe and Tony was saying roughly 3. Traditionally they would rather give us a lower expectation. Would rather under promise and over deliver than tell you it's going to be something that it isn't going to be. For their interest rate they chose 3.5%. Kevin had mentioned 2.75%. Kurt Pletcher from Umbaugh discussed financing and how it works and what our next step would be in the process. Dr. Strietelmeier asked if there were any questions regarding Performance Services. They are a very well respected company. They are currently doing work in Michigan City and other areas, including Bolling

Brook School, Delphi, and Oak Hill Community Schools that will be complete by the end of the year. Ryan Stouts, representative of Performance Services, joined the meeting via telephone. MDS of New Durham Township was the last school they agreed to take on. Mr. Parkman asked if he sees any problem with getting the project done by the end of the year and meeting all the requirements. They have a lot of material available, i.e., solar panels, enough to do this project, so they can deliver panels immediately on the site. Mr. Parkman advised that the big key for him was the presentation of the 2.75%, saving \$60,000, and then looking at the 3.5%, which only saved us \$20,000, so it was a \$40,000 swing. Mr. Stouts advised that they are very conservative. They had no problem finding funding providers for the other three projects, so they are very confident. They are seeing ranges from 2.65 to just over 3 of real numbers coming back. They can tier the payments for the first 4-5 years to save them more money. It could be \$50,000 - \$60,000 if we get the right interest rate and want to tier the payments. They will work with you to determine what's best for the school system. Dr. Strietelmeier clarified with Ryan that Performance Services would be ready to start the project even before you have the financing in line. Yes, with their success rate with Umbaugh and Ice Miller, they are willing to go ahead begin the installation as soon as possible because they are confident they will be able to find financing for the project. The price of the total cost of the system has stayed the same since they came on board. With those two companies on board, they will be able to find a good fit for you and maximize what you're looking for. Mr. Parkman advised that they would like to send out a letter/email from the school corporation to local and regional banks and other resources who would have interest in financing this type of project that may not be in the school corporation's region with the goal of getting the lowest interest rate to maximize the savings. Michigan City received a 2.65% rate through Horizon Bank. Based on the cost savings, they could tailor the payments, with lower payments the first 4-5 years to realize a larger savings for a specified period and then push that out. Send out letters seeking the best interest rates and then provide that information to the school corporation and make a decision to get the ball rolling. Mr. Parkman suggested that if the savings is \$40,000-\$60,000 that we not tier it because the interest compounds. The tier payments were just an option.

Dr. Strietelmeier will contact Ryan or Tony to discuss a call he received from the carpenters union to see how that would be handled going forward.

Dr. Strietelmeier requested a motion to allow him to sign the contract after Bill Kaminski approves it with Performance Services. Ms. Jedrysek made a motion to allow Dr. Strietelmeier to sign and accept the contract upon Bill Kaminski's review and approval, seconded by Ms. Hannon. Motion carried.

Dr. Strietelmeier advised that he plans to stage the project next to the baseball field, because that is the only space to house four trailers. He will email Tony and ask him to start shipping everything here. Regarding staging, Mr. Parkman asked where they were with the portable classroom. Inventory on the classroom was finished today. Todd has a dumpster. He is throwing away the broken items. A note will go out to the teachers on

October 6, advising they walk through the trailer. If there is anything they want, mark it so they can get it out of there. Whatever is left, will have to work with Sherry to have to auction it or proper disposal of it. If anything is over \$1,000, it will have to be advertised. If under that, we can get rid of it by whatever means. There is no individual item worth over \$1,000. Need to get it emptied and removed. That would also be a great staging area. It is possible to get done within a month.

New Business

A. Donation – Action

Received a \$2,000 donation from the Unity Foundation to go towards the Ozobots that they are using in the library. Mr. Parkman made a motion to accept the \$2,000 donation from the Unity Foundation, seconded by Ms. Jedrysek. Motion carried.

Personnel – Action

A. Appointments

- **Katie Beadles** **Elementary Instructional Aide**
- **Renee Patton** **Elementary Instructional Aide**
- **Brittany Doom** **Elementary Instructional Aide**

These are for the third grade positions that were approved a couple of weeks ago. Mr. Ton met with all three ladies, two of them over the phone, and one in person. They discussed their management style with students because they will have a supervisory role on the playground and in the hallways, how they work with adult staff members, and how they would work with the students to make them comfortable.

They will start on Monday, October 2, and the rate pay is the same pay that we brought in the other two this fall even though it's not technically the bottom rate, it is the rate we gave the other two. The criminal background checks are in process.

Motion to approve appointments of Katie Beadles, Brittany Doom, and Renee Patton to be the new instructional aides was made by Ms. Hannon and seconded by Ms. Jedrysek. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: October 11, 2017
Regular School Board Meeting

Vicki L. Hannon, Secretary

Date