

**Seneca Township High School District 160  
Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.  
Superintendent's Office**

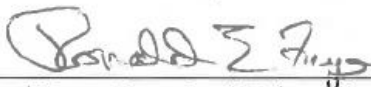
Present: Ron Frye, Rich Hamilton, Jason Eltrevoog, Dan Stecken, Stacey Gould

- A. Public Comment-None
  
- B. Finance
  - 1. 2021 Levy and 2022-23 Budget
    - a. Stacey Gould introduced the first big picture look at the FY 22-23 budget. Changes include the retirements of Kent Weber, Steve Haines, and Marty Voiles which decrease vocational/athletic salaries and administrative costs. O&M fund will see increased expenditures due to numerous building projects with the majority of the funding coming from ESSER and maintenance grants. IMRF expenditures are also down with only \$50K in unfunded liability as of September of 2021.
    - b. Mrs. Gould also introduced the 2021 levy. The plan is to ask for \$13.586M with an anticipated extension of only about \$12.782M once the district abates to the \$1.74838 tax rate. Compared to the prior year, this levy will see a decrease in IMRF and an increase in Tort. Dan Stecken commented that the district will have to review the Risk Management policy to make sure the Tort fund is fully utilized.
  
- C. Personnel
  - 1. Succession Planning Building Services Director
    - a. Mr. Stecken discussed the succession plan and the timeline for replacing Barry Buchanan. The plan is to post the job opening in December of 2021 with the hopes to interview in January/February of 2022. The new applicant would start in May. This would allow the new hire to utilize Barry as a mentor before his retirement. Dan also mentioned Barry expressing the potential interest of staying on as part-time help.
  - 2. Succession Planning- Faculty & Maintenance
    - a. Mr. Stecken went over the current succession timeline including teachers who have put in for retirement and those that have the possibility of retiring in the next few years.
    - b. Mr. Stecken noted that Mike Coughlin will be retiring in 6 years and that a plan should be put in place to start thinking about his replacement.
    - c. ATI - Mr. Stecken shared his frustrations with ATI physical therapy and their continuous rising prices - especially after a year when the district did not fully utilize their services due to COVID. Dan mentioned he was very happy with Christopher, the ATI physical therapist, and that his concern would be losing him if the district decided to switch vendors. Dan introduced the potential idea of hiring Christopher full-time as the trainer and also part-time maintenance worker. Currently, there is a need for

maintenance help during spring and fall sports. Dan shared the cost differences and the ability to charge his salary to Tort.

3. Agriculture Presentation
  - a. Mr. Stecken shared a letter to the Board from Jeff Maierhofer representing the Thomas Jeschke Agricultural Education Fund Committee. Jeff's letter addressed the transition of the Ag program as Kent and Jeff retire and new teachers are hired and also listed out all of the duties they perform throughout the year. The Fund Committee would like to donate \$60,000 in order to hire two new ag teachers for the 22-23 school year instead of just one. The letter stated this will provide a mentorship-type program that will allow for a more seamless transition.
  - b. Committee members agreed to revisit the idea once candidates have been identified in order to get a more accurate idea of salary and benefit costs.
4. Adjunct Nursing Instructor Contract
  - a. Mr. Stecken presented the teaching contract with Amber Robertson to teach ALH 1000 Introduction to Nutrition which is a dual credit course offered through IVCC. Dan mentioned the fees have gone up slightly but after this year this contract will no longer be needed as the nursing instructor, Taylor Schmidt, will have the credentials to teach this course.
5. Co-Curricular List Update - Dance
  - a. Mr. Stecken shared a letter from Activities Director Steve Haines that requested the cancellation of the 21-22 Dance Team. The program does not have enough interest from the student body to meet the minimum number of team members requirement and no coach.
6. Mandate Requirements Update
  - a. Mr. Stecken shared the current COVID numbers at Seneca High School which have been very low. If this trend continues, he stated his plan is to reach out to local legislators to discuss giving local control back to the Board.

D. Adjournment -The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

  
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President, Board of Education

10-20-2021  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Board of Education

10-20-2021  
Date