

Finance Committee Meeting 5/26/10

BOE Present: Keith Sutton, Chris Malone, Kevin Hill, Carolyn Morrison, Debra Goldman , Anne McLaurin

Staff Present: Dr. Donna Hargens, David Neter, Don Haydon, Mark Winters

Others: Jeannie Lanane (NCAE president)

Mr. Neter had been asked to survey other public school systems to see if they had additional sources of revenue- corporate sponsorships, etc. He reported that most public school systems are dependent on state and local money.

He mentioned that WCPSS receives about \$97,000 by procurement rebate. A percent of that money goes back to each schools (drink vending contract- no soft drinks.)

Mrs. Goldman asked how staff chose the list of school systems. Mr. Winters said that staff communicated with “benchmark schools.” Mr. Haydon also mentioned using the Council of Greater City Schools. The following school systems replied to the survey:

Ann Arundel, MD; Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC; Durham County, NC; Gwinnett County, GA; Jefferson County, KY; Prince George’s County, MD; Boston, MA; Detroit, MI; Seattle, WA; Orange County, FL; San Diego, CA; Springfield School District.

In looking at the responses, Mrs. Goldman asked, “Nothing from Fairfax?” She was told that Fairfax did not respond to the survey.

Mr. Sutton said that he had asked the Chamber of Commerce if there was interest in naming rights for school venues, etc. Harvey Schmitt told him that there wasn’t much interest. Mr. Hill mentioned that this might also step on the toes of Booster Clubs.

Mrs. Goldman said that we would have to balance the “selling out” of building names if the buildings are already named after someone.

It was reported that most systems had a foundation or endowment.

Dr. McLaurin asked if we could set up a foundation.

Mr. Neter said that the BOE cannot be on top of a nonprofit- that they would need to be separate.

Mr. Winters said that he would check into the Triangle Community Foundation.

Mr. Neter said that we should have an idea of total state cuts in early June.

Mr. Sutton said that he had participated in a NC School Board Association webinar on the budget.

The focus of the webinar was to look at other places to cut funds prior to resorting to teacher dismissals.

Mrs. Goldman asked for an explanation of what money the lottery gives us.

Mr. Neter said that the average WCPSS receives is 7-9 million dollars and that the state allocates money to DPI- that is released to LEA's. The amount received is determined by the county's tax rate. (CMS gets more - Wake has the ability to pay higher taxes, but we don't; therefore, we receive less of the money.)

The next Finance meeting will focus on the House's recommended budget.

It was also asked if there will still be money for teacher mentor pay.