

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
RHINEBECK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
HELD ON APRIL 16, 2020**

A meeting of the Finance Committee (the “Committee,” the members of which are referred to as “Committee Members”) of the Rhinebeck Central School District Board of Education (the “Board”) was held on April 16, 2020 (the “Meeting”) via video conference. Each Committee Member could hear and be heard by the other Committee Members.

Present at the Meeting were Tom Burnell, Mark Fleischhauer, Steve Jenkins, Christine Natoli, Joe Phelan, and Matthew Van Wormer, constituting all of the Committee Members. Steve Jensen and Marvin Kreps were also in attendance for a portion of the Meeting.

Mr. Jenkins, serving as Chairman of the Meeting, greeted all in attendance and called the Meeting to order at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Burnell began by providing an overview of the agenda items to be discussed during the Meeting, which included: (1) the one-to-one computing model; (2) transportation and certain other contracts; (3) child-care; (4) capital projects; (5) COVID-19 and potential budget implications; (6) potential state aid cuts this year and next year; and (7) an update on budget reserves.

Mr. Burnell explained that the District is looking at a potential approximate \$300,000 three-lease to provide computers to students beginning in year one. He also noted that professional development costs associated with this initiative are estimated to be approximately \$160,000, split over a two-year period. Mr. Jensen stated that the plan being discussed is to be able to provide one-to-one computers for grades 6-12 starting September 2020, with the professional development aspect to follow. He explained that this is important in the event that COVID-19 continues to necessitate remote learning. Mr. Jensen stated that the plan involves moving all the MacBooks at

the secondary level to the middle school. Mr. Phelan explained that this would allow every middle school student to have a MacBook which would eliminate the need for separate carts. Mr. Jensen then discussed the plan to replenish the supply of Chromebooks in the high school in order to provide one-to-one computers for students, including a potential 50/50 partnership with Rhinebeck Science Foundation. He then discussed the rationale for having a bifurcated technology platform (*i.e.*, MacBooks and Chromebooks), which included offering students a full range of experiences with different platforms. Mr. Jensen also noted that Dr. Davenport planned to discuss this initiative with the various department chairs next week. In response to a question from Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Jensen discussed the projected lifespans of the computers and what students would do with the computers upon graduation. He then discussed the budgetary implications of the one-to-one technology initiative. Mr. Fleischhauer then noted the importance of being able to shift quickly to remote learning in the event circumstances require.

Mr. Kreps then discussed the professional development component of the one-to-one technology both in the context of a normal environment and a remote learning environment. He noted that this may take the form of both “teachers teaching teachers” and the use of outside resources, as appropriate. In response to a question from Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Kreps discussed the plan for teachers to integrate the new technology into daily lessons. In response to a question from Mr. Fleischhauer, Mr. Phelan and Mr. Kreps discussed the logistics of conducting professional development remotely over the summer. After further discussion, Mr. Jensen and Mr. Kreps then left the meeting.

Mr. Burnell then discussed the District’s transportation contracts and certain other contracts. He explained that certain districts have decided to suspend payments under such contracts because the services are no longer being provided due to COVID-19. He noted that

certain other districts are continuing to make these payments. Mr. Burnell discussed guidance received from counsel in this area and noted that further guidance from New York State would be helpful. Mr. Burnell stated that counsel indicated that the transportation contracts may not be terminated due to COVID-19 and that it may be in the interest of the District to negotiate with the vendors to ensure they are able to provide services again once the period of remote learning is over. In response to a question from Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Burnell discussed the Educational Stabilization Fund and noted that monies under this program have not yet been received by individual school districts and that the mechanism for receiving such money is currently unclear. The Committee Members agreed that the District should go forward and negotiate with the applicable vendor(s) on possible payment arrangements.

Mr. Burnell then discussed the provision of child-care services in the District as contemplated under the Governor's Executive Order. He noted that most other districts in the county are not paying for such services. Mr. Phelan stated that the government does not require the District to pay for these services. He noted that the District has offered its facilities for these services, but thus far, there has not been enough demand to make it worthwhile for Northern Dutchess Daycare to run the program out of the District's facilities.

Mr. Burnell then provided an update on the District's capital projects and discussed how changes in the bond market may impact financing costs. Mr. Phelan then noted that the DEC has closed the District's spill project, which is good news.

Referring to materials provided to the Committee Members in advance of the Meeting, Mr. Burnell then discussed COVID-19 and the potential implications on various line-items in the budget. He explained that he is still analyzing any potential impact on the budget and would report back to the Committee as appropriate.

Mr. Burnell then discussed the potential of state aid cuts both this year and next. He directed the Committee Members to the latest draft of the budget which he circulated in advance of the Meeting. Mr. Burnell then noted that various items have been added to next year's budget and explained that he has asked the various administrators to review any proposed new items to confirm the necessity of such items in view of the potential for state aid cuts. Mr. Phelan then responded to questions from the Committee Members regarding certain part and full time positions currently in the draft budget.

Mr. Burnell then provided an update on reserves. He noted that two categories to which reserves could be added included tax certiorari and employee benefits. It was also noted that reserves could be used to partially offset state aid cuts. Mr. Burnell then discussed certain potential items the District could pay for this year and remove from next year's budget. He then noted that he would discuss with Principal Kemnitzer the practicality of purchasing e-books next year. In response to a question from Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Burnell agreed to look into the possibility of creating a new TRS or ERS reserve fund in which to put monies.

The Committee Members then agreed that the next meeting would take place on April 23, 2020.

There being no further business, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m., Eastern Time.

Matthew J. Van Wormer
Acting Secretary