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**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE  
RHINEBECK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HELD ON MAY 7, 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 May 7, 2020 (the “Meeting”) via video conference. Each Meeting participant could hear and be heard by the other Meeting participants.

Present at the Meeting were Tom Burnell, Mark Fleischhauer, Steve Jenkins, Christine Natoli, Joseph Phelan, and Matthew Van Wormer, constituting all of the Committee Members. Ed Davenport, Steve Jensen and Marvin Kreps also attended the Meeting at the request of the Committee for purposes of participating in the continuing discussions around the District’s one-to-one computing initiative.

Mr. Phelan, serving as Chairman of the Meeting, greeted all in attendance and called the Meeting to order at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Dr. Davenport stated that there is consensus support among the Rhinebeck High School (“RHS”) faculty for developing, implementing and facilitating a one-to-one computing model for the students and transitioning to a single learning managing system, Canvas, for grades 6-12. He noted that this will require professional training for at least a couple of instructional cycles. In response to the Board’s goal regarding a learning management system, Dr. Davenport stated that research indicated that Google Classroom is not being used at all at the college level, which was a significant factor behind his and the RHS department chairs’ decision not to go with that particular application. In response to a question from Mr. Jenkins, Dr. Davenport discussed the reasons that the District intends to proceed with MacBooks rather than Chromebooks. He explained that MacBooks have certain proprietary applications which students would be able to utilize and that

MacBooks would also create a seamless transition for students from Bulkeley Middle School (“BMS”) to RHS. Mr. Jensen then discussed the experience RHS teachers have utilizing MacBooks in the classroom. Mr. Jensen also stated that RHS students will have access to the Adobe suite of products, which contains applications such as Photoshop. He noted that he would provide the Committee with a list of these applications. Mr. Kreps then noted that based on feedback he had received, MacBooks are generally more durable than Chromebooks. In response to another question from Mr. Jenkins, Dr. Davenport stated that in RHS there are approximately 20 teachers currently using Google Classroom, approximately 6 teachers using Canvas, and the remaining 4-5 teachers are using websites or other methods of communication. He then discussed the process of migrating from Google Classroom to Canvas and noted that there is a learning curve involved.

The Committee Members then discussed potential financial support from the Rhinebeck Science Foundation (“RSF”) in connection with the one-to-one computing initiative. Mr. Kreps then provided an update on recent discussions with representatives from RSF. He explained that he had outlined various financing options in connection with the project, including payment of the entire RSF commitment in year one or spreading the payments over three years. Mr. Kreps noted that he and Mr. Jensen are waiting to hear on the preferred financing option prior to submitting the grant application to RSF. Dr. Davenport then left the Meeting.

Mr. Burnell then referred the Committee Members to information discussing the budgetary impact of several potential financing options for the one-to-one computing model, including an outright purchase and a 3-year lease option through Apple, which would include AppleCare protection for the computers. He explained that a 3-year lease is expected to cost an additional \$23,000 over the life of the program as compared to an outright purchase. He noted that extending

the lease to a fourth year is expected to increase the financing cost by approximately \$4,000. Mr. Burnell stated that monies received from certain legislators would offset some of these costs. He then discussed how the financing would look if it were to be conducted through BOCES. Mr. Burnell explained that if the District purchased computers through BOCES there would be no BOCES aid available unless the District waited until after July 1, 2020 to effect the purchases. He explained that if the District purchases the computers through BOCES after July 1, 2020, they could potentially be eligible for BOCES aid, although there is some uncertainty around this due to potential budgetary actions by the Governor. As a result, Mr. Burnell explained that it would be cheaper to finance the computers through Apple in the event BOCES aid is not available. In response to a question from Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Burnell stated that financing through Apple would be the best option in terms of being able to have the computers available for students in time for the start of the 2020-21 school year. The Committee Members noted that the key consideration is balancing the need to get the computers in the hands of students as close to the beginning of the school year as possible while obtaining cost-effective financing. In response to a question from Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Kreps discussed how teachers might be able to integrate the devices into their daily lessons. Messrs. Jensen and Kreps then left the Meeting.

Mr. Burnell then referred the Committee Members to the fourth draft of the budget. He noted that the current draft reflects the removal of the capital project. Mr. Burnell stated that this had the effect of reducing the tax levy from 3.66% to 3.16%, which represented an approximate \$145,000 reduction in taxes. He then discussed various line-item changes since the prior budget draft. In response to a question from Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Burnell agreed to look into potential actions that might be able to reduce the tax levy under 3%.

The Committee Members agreed that the Committee's next meeting would take place on June 4, 2020.

There being no further business, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:05 p.m., Eastern Time.

Matthew J. Van Wormer  
Acting Secretary