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Budget, Planning, Finance and Audit Committee Meeting
Tom Vaclavek, Committee Chairperson
Tuesday, September 21, 2021
Minutes

Present: Tom Vaclavek, Adam Guss, Erica Brusco, Kevin Werner, Jay Sargeant, Steve Olson, Nicole Pavoris, Ron Ludwig, Dave Secrest, Wendy Williams, Amy Blazier, Jason Blake

- **Call to Order - at 5:32 p.m.**
- **Roll Call**
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Approval of September 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes**
- **Review of Change of Insurance Carriers and New Rates**

Wendy Williams from Alliant/Mesirow presented an overview of the insurance renewal analysis and the various costs associated with each of the insurance companies looked at. The Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) renewal rate for 2022 would have seen an increase of 13.2% or an additional \$1,305,591 over the current rate for 2021 of \$11,164,741. Aetna/Alliant Core Trust's quote for 2022 is \$10,024,083, which represents a 1.7% increase over the current year cost with BCBS.

Wendy Williams reviewed the proposal from Aetna Alliant Core Trust's policy and rate changes as well as the new benefits offered. In addition, the rates were reviewed for the dental, vision and the basic life and long term disability plans.

The recommendation is to move to Aetna Insurance beginning January, 2022 for health insurance and remain with Delta Dental, VSP Vision and The Standard Group for life and long term disability.

- **Discussion on Board Policies - Accounting and Auditing**

Dr. Kevin Werner, Chief Officer of Finance and Operations - presented recommendations with regards to updates and/or clarifications to the following board policies 4:10, 4:20, 4:32, 4:40, 4:45, 4:50, 4:55, 4:60, 4:80 and 4:90. The purpose of this review is to determine compliance and relevance as it relates to District practices and procedures.

The Finance Committee asked that policy **4:32 Investment of School District Funds** and **4:60 Purchases and Contracts** be looked at further for additional wording updates.

The balance of the policy change proposals were approved by the Finance Committee. These changes will be presented to the Board of Education at a later date.

- **Discussion on Developer Impact Fees**

Dr. Werner presented an update regarding Developer Impact Fees. In December, 2018 the City of Crystal Lake passed an amendment of its United Development Ordinance Regarding Impact Fees (Ord. No. 7519; File No. 442) which requires public bodies and public service providers to provide certification that the needs assessment filed with the City Clerk reasonably reflects the need for public facilities in order to have those funds released.

A letter was drafted by Dr. Werner requesting those funds be released to the district based on a needs assessment that was conducted. The letter will be delivered to the City of Crystal Lake later this week.

- **Discussion on ESSER III Funds & Safe in-Person Return**

Dr. Werner presented an update regarding the three ESSER funds approved to give much needed support for school districts as a result of COVID-19. These funds are meant to offset the additional expenditures the district faces to address the social, emotional and learning loss as a direct result of the pandemic. The district's total allocation of all 3 ESSER grants is \$4,525,361.

The district received \$320,798 from the ESSER I (CARES Act) grant. These funds were used to help close the digital divide during remote/hybrid learning.

In addition, the district has been allocated \$1,295,796 from the ESSER II (CRRSA Act). These funds were used for the air handler system at Crystal Lake South and additional technology investments to support remote/hybrid learning. Currently two-thirds of these funds have been collected and the final allocation of \$463,000 will be requested in October.

Finally, the district plans to utilize the ESSER III (ARP Act) grant funds which total \$3,270,353 in four major areas. These areas support social, emotional and learning loss experienced as a direct result of the COVID -19 pandemic. The planned use of these funds are as follows:

- Dedicated Outside Air Systems (DOAS) for improved air quality at Crystal Lake South and improved air quality at Cary Grove - \$1,838,858
- Tutoring and Learning Loss spaces to provide smaller classroom sizes and assist students as they rebuild the social and emotional loss - \$1,305,674.
- Improvement of instructional services (iXL Math, Edmentum/PLATO, and SEL survey -\$125,821.

- **Public Comments**
- **Adjourn at 6:50 p.m.**