

M I N U T E S
Mason Consolidated Schools
Meeting of the Finance Committee

Proposed
March 7, 2013

Finance Committee

On March 7, 2013, the Finance Committee held a meeting in the Superintendent's Office at Mason High School. The meeting began immediately following the Buildings & Grounds meeting, at 8:45 a.m.

Committee Members Present:	Fowler, Larrow, Clark
Committee Members Absent:	None
Also Present:	Drewyor, Strick, Billegas, Lukshaitis-(entered meeting during monthly reports) (Ginther-audience member)

Review/Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Clark, supported by Larrow to approve the agenda with the following change: Add Item B, North property sale income, to Old Business. Motion carried 3:0.

Monthly Items

Review of monthly reports

- The February 2013 check registers, tax report, monthly financials, and February 14th minutes were reviewed. Ms. Strick answered multiple questions asked by Mrs. Larrow and Mrs. Fowler regarding the check register. Ms. Strick pointed out that the budget adjustments are reflected in the financials that were distributed. No changes were made to the February 14th minutes.

Old Business

- FY '14: Mr. Drewyor stated that right now, there are a few possibilities for budget recommendations. Mr. Lukshaitis presented a list of pros and cons related to moving to a 7 period day. If implemented, the District could save at least \$120,000, as two full-time teaching positions would be eliminated. Other pros include the ability to retain the freshmen academy, offering two sections of construction trades, expansion of science electives, an added section of art at the high school, an added section of industrial technology, the ability to split up the Middle School and High School band classes, and a lower student to teacher ratio. The cons include the following: 7 classes means 7 exams for students, loss of 31.67 instructional hours per period, more preparations for teachers to make and less time to do it in, increased sub costs when an internal substitute is used, more passing time could mean more discipline issues, and less adults mean fewer eyes in the hallways, as well as less help for students. Mr. Lukshaitis added that we are able to keep other important programs if we make changes such as the move to a 7 hour day. He stated that we can still deliver a strong program. He reminded the committee that we will continue to have an at-risk teacher to help students who are struggling. Mr. Drewyor expressed concern that we will have teachers teaching subjects that they haven't taught in the past. Mr. Lukshaitis stated that the teachers are all trained and that they will do fine with the assignments. Mrs. Clark stated that she is not opposed to making a change, but she doesn't want to keep making changes. She stated that if a change is made, the District needs to stick with a 7 period day for awhile. She added that there is a lot of savings associated with the idea. Mrs. Larrow stated that she likes the idea of adding science courses that will help prepare students for the more difficult science courses. Mrs. Clark stated that she appreciates Mr. Lukshaitis' outlook on the change.
- Mr. Drewyor stated that it is possible that Mr. Kisonas will be offered a position at another District. We may have an opportunity to share a tech director for two

half days per week. The shared director would be in charge of the more complicated projects. Ms. Strick asked who would take care of gathering quotes and bids for technology projects and equipment. Mr. Drewyor stated that the director would take care of gathering bids. Mr. Drewyor stated that Mr. Kisonas said that we would be able to get along with the shared director for the next three years. Mrs. Larrow stated that we are in the process of gathering work order data to help us with evaluating time and the number of projects that get completed. She hopes that the data will help. Mr. Drewyor stated that Mrs. Ravary takes care of technology requisitions and tasks like that will not be included on the work order system. Ms. Strick referred to the check register and stated that there aren't too many requisitions for technology.

- Mr. Drewyor summarized a possible plan to cut back on technology costs. We would use a shared director two days per week, for just a half day each time. Mrs. Ravary's hours could be increased. The technology hours at the Middle School could be reduced. The high school technology hours could be reduced and a short portion of the day could be shared with Central Elementary. We do not plan on replacing the library aide position at Central. In addition, the elementary technology teacher could be paid with technology funds, as well as 3 periods for the Middle School teachers who teach a technology course. Ms. Strick stated that the teacher positions are better suited for technology funds as opposed to the support positions that are paid from the fund. She stated that the technology millage was set up to cover instructional technology costs. Mrs. Clark stated that she would like to see the figures on paper before making a decision. Ms. Strick asked Mr. Drewyor for details of his ideas so that she could begin pricing out the savings.
- North property sale income: Mrs. Clark asked about a plan for the income from the sale of North. She asked if we should put it in the building improvements fund for emergencies. She suggests earmarking the money because if it is put into the general fund, it will be gone.
- Mrs. Larrow added that we have quite a deficit to work on. Ms. Strick said that she would not advise using the money from the sale for everyday expenses. She added that we need to see what happens with the sinking fund before we make a final decision on the money. Mr. Drewyor agreed with Ms. Strick's advice.
- Ms. Strick distributed a summary of the textbook expenditures over the past several years. She shared how the textbook budget was created and the amounts we have spent. Mrs. Clark stated that the Ad team could work on the textbook budget. Mr. Drewyor stated that he is happy with keeping things the same.

New Business

There were no new business items to discuss.

Public Comment

There were no comments.

Adjournment

At 9:43 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.