

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE/BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
AMBOY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #272
THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018, AT 7:00 P.M.
AMBOY HIGH SCHOOL ROOM 105**

President Jones called the Finance/Building & Grounds Committee Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. All board members were present except Pratt. Also present were Jeff Thake, Joshua Nichols, Joyce Schamberger, Matt Willahan, Nichole Stenzel, Dave Stenzel, Michele James, Jaime Frausto & Kevin O'Kelly.

Elsa Payne was Secretary Pro Tem.

The floor was opened to comments from the public. There were none.

Superintendent Thake announced that the 2013 bond is non-callable, meaning that there are restrictions on how much we can bond. He shared bond information that was discussed earlier in the day with Elizabeth Hennessey and Kevin O'Kelly, from Raymond James. Kevin entered the meeting at 7:03 p.m. Thake continued with explaining three options. 1) Call bank and ask to get out of the current status on the non-callable bond. 2) Refund existing bonds on a taxable basis. 3) Capital appreciation bonds. Kevin then explained why option one is the best.

Michele James & Jaime Frausto, from CTS, discussed Central School plumbing needs and cost estimate.

Katie Pratt entered the meeting at 7:28 p.m. and took over as Secretary.

The referendum was discussed. Final vote count was 717 yes and 773 no. It was suggested to follow up with a formal survey of voters to determine reasons for voting yes or no.

Ray Johnson asked CTS if the cost of the project will remain the same or if we will see a price increase. CTS confirmed building material costs are rising but felt this increase had already been factored in to the initial estimate.

272 KIDS asked if there was a possibility to reduce the cost of the project either by reducing square footage, etc. However the group also felt it wasn't the cost that lost the election, rather voters felt they didn't have enough time to consider the project and get answers to their questions.

The following are some questions that 272 KIDS feel need to be answered:

- 1) What is the one percent sales tax going towards, specifically?
- 2) What is the cost of maintenance at the Junior High?
- 3) What is the cost of health/life safety upgrades annually, every two years, three years, etc.?
- 4) How much would it cost to build a new Junior High not connected to the High School?
- 5) What does the new gym cost in relation to the classrooms of the new Junior High?

Discussed how the referendum could be put on a municipal election ballot (for example in April 2019) if there was a mayoral or school board election as well.

CTS suggested that replacing the entire HVAC system at the High School when installing the new system at the new Junior High could reduce the cost because one percent sales tax funds could be used for that process.

Jason Leffelman suggested that a 1/3 of the funds from the 1% sales tax be used for the referendum.

The Board requested a tour of a school that completed new construction on a similar structure as is proposed.

It was suggested that staff be a part of the conversation from the beginning. A presentation by CTS to staff was suggested for the May 7, 2018 SIP Day.

A motion was made by Leffelman and seconded by Johnson to approve the authorization to go out for bid for two special education buses and two one-year-old buses for leasing purposes. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Schnaiter and seconded by Hummel to renew our lease for two activity buses effective July 1, 2018. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Schnaiter and seconded by Payne to approve the employment of Jessica Arellano as Math Teacher at the High School, effective for the 2018-2019 school year. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Payne and seconded by Leffelman to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Pratt, Secretary

Nicole Jones, President

Approved: _____