



Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2015; 7:00 a.m.

Central Administration Office – Board Room

Present: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Board Member Leslie Ross and Board Member Jason Hanson. Others present: Dr. Marcus Lewton and Mrs. Twila Petersen.

Called to Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:05 a.m. by Chair Leslie Ross.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda Items – Superintendent Sullivan requested the topic of “Health Insurance Rates” be added as a new business agenda topic. The request was approved.

Old Business – There were no old business topics for discussion.

New Business

Teach Scape Computer Software – Dr. Sullivan stated the teachers and administrators have been working on the teacher evaluation instrument process for over a year. The Danielson model is the model chosen by a committee and the model will be implemented this fall. There is a computer software program integrated with the Danielson model that will assist principals in their monitoring of teachers. Dr. Lewton, Mr. Dockter and Mrs. Cook have done research and feel the Teach Scape software would benefit the administrators. Dr. Sullivan and the those administrators wished to recommend it to this committee for funding. Dr. Sullivan asked Dr. Lewton to attend the meeting and explain the software. A handout was provided with a quote for the software. Dr. Lewton addressed the Budget Committee and explained the Teach Scape software is a teacher evaluation management system that takes the Danielson model’s four domains and 22 components and makes it more manageable. The Danielson model is a system that is comprehensive and complex. Teach Scape has two parts that makes it a great tool for management. The principal can bring the software on a laptop into the classroom. There are different things listed which helps the administrator evaluate more quickly and then communicate it back to the teacher. It allows for immediate feedback to the teacher. Dr. Lewton added it allows for clearly defined attributes. The Teach Scape software has a library of video resources to assist with the evaluation, such as managing classroom procedure or critical attributes. Chair Ross inquired if the software provides reports and historical data indicating the goals and targets. Dr. Lewton responded that it did provide reports and can target professional development specific to that component. Chair Ross inquired if the program eliminates misconceptions. Dr. Lewton responded that it is objective. The licensing of \$12,000 was an annual fee. Dr. Sullivan noted the training for the Danielson model is scheduled for August 24 and 25th during the inservice. Chair Ross recommended the software for approval and Mr. Hanson concurred.

Health Insurance Rates – Superintendent Sullivan provided a handout with information regarding the self-funded health insurance balance. There was a Health Insurance Committee meeting going on simultaneously. Dr. Sullivan referenced page two on the hand out which showed the fund balance increased by \$47,000 to \$837,000. This is significantly higher than in past years. Administrative recommendation is an increase of 8% in October. That is in line with the increase comparison for the past few years. Dr. Sullivan explained the stop-loss for an individual claim is at \$100,000. He noted there have been some significant claims causing the stop-loss premium to increase by 20% for next year. Chair Ross inquired if the District has considered checking rates from Sanford Health since 65,000 state employees are switching to that company. She inquired if Sanford’s rates were comparable and what the coverage was in comparison to now. Dr. Sullivan responded that the District did not request a quote

from Sanford this year. He will ask Assistant Superintendent Reep to request a quote next year. Dr. Sullivan said the health insurance increase will be on the August school board agenda.

Other – There were no other topics for discussion.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 7:20 a.m.