

**North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200**  
Minutes of the Business Services Committee Meeting  
District Office  
6248 North Boone School Road  
Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065  
Tuesday, January 14, 2025  
6:00 P.M.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Mrs. Judy Hutchinson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The following Committee Members were present: Judy Hutchinson, Tom Kinser, Ed Mulholland, Dr. Greenlee, Stacey Corder, Marc Eckmann, Heather Walsh, Elaine Aherns, Ann Niles, and Andrea Sowers. Nan Schilling and Mary Maxey were also present. Absent was Cathy Nelson.

**AUDIENCE TO VISITOR**

Mr. William Randall spoke regarding the upcoming abatement.

**ABATEMENT**

Stacey Corder presented on the Abatement. Ms. Corder shared the District's Abatement history since the 2008 Levy Year which totaled \$14,645,900.85. Also shared were Abatements compared to Schedule Abatements since the 2017 Levy Year.

The Abatement Options for 2024 Levy were presented as follows:

**Option 1:**

- Continue with the original planned abatement amount of \$328,577.
- Tax Rate would be approximately 5.41% (as presented).
- No future abatements planned.
- The total amount of the original bonds will then have been abated.
- All but \$180,522 of the total cost of the building of the high school will then have been abated.

**Option 2:**

- Abate \$509,100, which includes the original abatement amount of \$328,577 and the remaining cost from building the high school of \$180,522.
- With this amount, the total cost of building the High School would have been abated since 2008.
- Tax Rate would be approximately 5.34%.

Future Abatement Options would be as follows:

**Option 1:**

- Begin to allocate a larger percentage of the Facility Tax Revenue to the Debt Services Fund. In turn, we could then abate that percentage each year until 2017 bonds are paid in full.

- The final payment for the 2017 bonds would be due in January of 2031.
- The current revenue for the Facility Tax Revenue is around \$745,000. Approximately 18% is currently allocated to the Debt Services Fund with the remaining amount going toward the Capital Project Fund.

Option 2:

- Abate the \$2.3 million in interest earned on the Capital Development Funds.
- This option would be done for the remaining years of the 2017 bond or for a shorter time.

The administration recommends that Option 1 as the best choice if the Board of Education would like to continue to abate. A suggestion to cap the allocation at 50% is also recommended. The \$2.3 million could then be transferred to the Capital Projects Fund for the Facilities plans that are to be developed.

After much discussion, the Committee requested that Ms. Corder bring a 3<sup>rd</sup> option and a lump sum option to the Board Meeting. Dr. Greenlee noted that the verified number from the County has not yet been received despite numerous requests/follow-ups. It was also recommended to focus on the current abatement and work on any future abatements in the upcoming months.

**BUS PURCHASE FY 26**

Dr. Greenlee stated that it is now time to start looking into bus purchases for next year to get the District back on the rotation schedule and able to receive our maximum reimbursements. There are only 6 years of reimbursements given. Unfortunately, this is a difficult task as getting quotes for buses that match the agreed-upon specifications is not easy.

The specifications that were set forth included:

- Less than 20,000 miles
- One-year-old buses
- 77 passengers
- Air brakes

Three vendors were contacted, Midwest Transit Equipment, National Bus Sales, and Central Bus. Midwest has 5 International buses that meet the criteria. Our current fleet is International and we would like to stay with that make as our inventory for parts is compatible. National Bus Sales only offered new buses. Central Bus only has new Blue Bird buses and said that we could access their used selection online, they offered nothing in writing. Not all dealers are certified for Illinois. Midwest has also provided a trade-in quote on 5 of our current buses. Dr. Greenlee noted that the sooner we can get a purchase approved, the higher on the list we will be placed to get the buses with the lowest mileage coming off of their leases. If we decide to purchase new buses, we would be required to go out for an RFP.

A discussion was held in regards to new vs. old buses, warranty, the difference between Blue Bird and International, training for drivers if the manufacturer is changed, maintenance records on buses being traded, trade-in values, and if additional quotes are required. It was suggested that a third quote be sought out for used buses to meet the requirement on the same level as the specs. The recommendation from the committee is to bring these quotes to the January Board Meeting.

**ADDITIONAL POSITIONS FOR FY 26**

Dr. Greenlee stated that it is that time of the year when the District starts to evaluate current positions and what will be needed for next year. We have several options to weigh and several positions will be available. This will start to come in February and March along with rationale as to what is being proposed.

**OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

*(none)*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(none)*

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 P.M.

Submitted by:

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Tom Kinser, Co-Chair

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Judy Hutchinson, Co-Chair