

Ludington Board of Education
Public Meeting Notice

Please Post

Mission: The Ludington Area School District, in partnership with parents and community, will educate and empower students to adapt and succeed in their future.

Finance Committee Meeting

Date: November 15, 2017

Time: 7:00 a.m.

Place: Ludington Area School District Administration Office
809 East Tinkham Avenue, Ludington, Michigan

- 1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL
 Kelly Thomsen Steve Carlson Bret Autrey
- 2) CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
- 3) AGENDA MODIFICATION
- 4) DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - a) MDE Grant Award - Additional Instructional Time and Interventions
 - b) Approval of the Tele-Rad Radio Upgrade
 - c) Food Service Fund Balance and Equipment Purchase
 - d) Snow Plow Competitive Bid Process
 - e) Health Care Insurance Premium Costs
 - f) Mason County Promise Zone Authority
 - g) School Resource Officer
- 5) OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 6) ADJOURNMENT

This is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. Official minutes of the Ludington Board of Education are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Board of Education's Central Business Office, 809 E. Tinkham Avenue, Ludington, Michigan, 231-845-7303. The Ludington Area School District is an equal opportunity employer and provider. If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of special accommodations to attend or participate in a public meeting please contact Superintendent Jason J. Kennedy at 231-845-7303 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting or as soon as possible.

Memorandum - Office of the Superintendent

TO: Board of Education ☐
FROM: Jason Kennedy, Superintendent
RE: Finance Committee Meeting ~ Agenda Notes

MDE Grant Award - Additional Instructional Time and Interventions

On October 23rd, the District received written notification from the Michigan Department of Education that Ludington Area Schools received an Additional Instructional Time and Interventions grant totaling \$34,320. This grant will be used to offset the cost of elementary summer school, as well as materials and supplies to support the District's literacy intervention program.

Tele-Rad Radio Upgrade

We will need an action item to approve the purchase of a new bus radio from Tele-Rad and Motorola in the amount of \$21,650 using proceeds from the Technology Bond. Our analog radio system used for bus communication is 14 years old. Tele-Rad is phasing out analog systems all together, and is instituting a digital system throughout Michigan. We are told that analog radios start losing capacity after approximately 8 years, and therefore we have been using radios with diminished range for some time. Our Tele-Rad representative assures us that our local areas of weak or no transmission service will be a thing of the past with the new system. Tele-Rad uses Motorola exclusively, and has quoted us a Motorola system in the amount of \$21,650. The radio equipment is ours, and we merely rent the service from Tele-Rad. The system allows for GPS monitoring, and has an emergency communication capability. This purchase should service us for the next 10 years, and inasmuch as it is a technology upgrade, I suggest we consider purchasing the system through our Technology Bond.

Food Service Fund Balance and Equipment Purchase

The Michigan Department of Education monitors our Food Service Fund Balance each year to make certain that we do not hold more than three months operating expenses as fund balance. Although we are not in violation, we added \$42,486 to the Food Service Fund Balance for the year ending June 30, 2017. We would have been in violation for a second consecutive year, but we spent \$62,015 on equipment to better serve our

students, which is considered a 'non-operating' expense.

This school year, Donna Garrow would like to purchase eight (8) hot boxes, which are mobile heating cabinets used to satellite food from the High School Kitchen to the various buildings. We purchased our current 'fleet' of traveling hot boxes from 2000 to 2002. Some of this equipment is in need of repair, or in need of refurbishment. We have obtained pricing from the following companies below, which satisfies State of Michigan bidding requirements, as follows:

Stafford-Smith	\$35,684.44
HPS	\$32,514.96
Merchandise Equipment	\$35,048.88

These are bids on CRESCOR H-138-S-1834D units. There is also a \$450-per-unit rebate from Consumers Energy, but they often run out of money before they can fund new projects. We will need a recommendation to approve the purchase of the hot boxes outlined above.

Snow Plow Competitive Bid Process

We will seek Board approval for the award of the snow plowing bid for the District in December. We will continue using our current contractor until a successor bid is awarded. The bid was issued on November 3rd, a walkthrough of the property was scheduled for November 17th, with a due date of December 4th as the deadline for the competitive bids. We have added some angle parking and the sidewalk along the playground at Foster, and the old tennis parking lot in front of the OJ main entrance to the bid.

Section 152 Health Insurance Caps and MESSA Plan Years

As of July 1, 2017, MESSA changed their plan year from a fiscal year, running from July through June, to a calendar year, beginning January 1, 2017. In order to help facilitate this, we were given insurance rates which are in effect for 18 months, spanning from July 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. As part of our contract negotiations, we agreed to language stating that our health insurance cap amounts "will be adjusted to reflect the State-decreed cap amounts for 2018, to the extent allowed by law."

It is the expectation of the LEA through our collective bargaining process that the cap amounts will change with this change on January 1, 2018. We budgeted for this when negotiating the contract. However, this will take action by the Board to change the measurement year. Currently, our Board-approved Section 152 measurement year is the fiscal year, which originally matched the MESSA plan year. Therefore, without any action on the part of the Board, the cap amounts will be adjusted July 1, 2018. However, if the

Board approves a 'short year,' running between July 1, 2017, and ending December 31, 2017, then the caps would be adjusted as of January 1, 2018. The Section 152 measurement year and the MESSA Plan Year would once again be the same. The cost to the school district is approximately \$30,000, but is offset by the savings to the School District for the period of July 1, 2018, through December 30, 2018, because the rates will be frozen. Again, we budgeted for this and it will be our recommendation to adopt this measurement year at December's board meeting. We wanted you to have this information in November, well in advance of this recommendation.

Mason County Promise Zone Authority

The District has been approached about supporting the development of a Promise Zone Authority that would ultimately support college scholarships for students in Mason County who qualify to attend West Shore Community College, or for trade and certificate programs, or for whatever similar purpose the Promise Zone Authority Board decides. We have been in contact with the Michigan Department of Treasury, who has confirmed our eligibility as a Promise Zone Authority. There will be more details to follow; however, a tentative community meeting is being planned by Annette Quillan for November 27, 2017. The tentative meeting times are at 2:00 PM, and then another at 5:30 PM on November 27th to learn more about this process. The meeting will be held at the Ludington Area Center for the Arts. Annette will be issuing a press release on this matter soon.

School Resource Officer

Chief Barnett has requested that the school consider adoption of a full time School Resource Officer (SRO) at a cost of \$38,000 in addition to the current \$25,000 that is already paid to cover the cost of the SRO. We will discuss a recommendation that will be developed at the committee meeting for recommendation to the full board.