



AGENDA

Wisconsin Rapids Public School District - Board of Education

510 Peach Street

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

(715) 424-6701

Business Services Committee

John Benbow, Jr., Chairman
Katherine Bielski-Medina, Member
Larry Davis, Member
John A Krings, President

January 5, 2015

LOCATION: Board of Education Conference Room A/B

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment
- III. Business Services
 - A. Audit Services Contract – Approval
- IV. Updates and Reports
 - A. Revenue Limit Energy Efficiency Exemption – Update
- V. Agenda Items

The Wisconsin open meetings law requires that the Board, or Board Committee, only take action on subject matter that is noticed on their respective agendas. Persons wishing to place items on the agenda should contact the District Office at [715-424-6701](tel:715-424-6701), at least seven working days prior to the meeting date for the item to be considered. The item may be referred to the appropriate committee or placed on the Board agenda as determined by the Superintendent and/or Board president.

With advance notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities by providing a sign language interpreter or other auxiliary aids, by calling [715-424-6701](tel:715-424-6701).

School Board members may attend the above Committee meeting(s) for information gathering purposes. If a quorum of Board members should appear at any of the Committee meetings, a regular School Board meeting may take place for purposes of gathering information on an item listed on one of the Committee agendas. If such a meeting should occur, the date, time, and location of the Board meeting will be that of the particular Committee as listed on the Committee agenda.



BACKGROUND

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III. Business Services

A. Audit Services Contract – Approval

Attached is a proposal for audit services to be performed by Hawkins Ash CPA, LLP for the 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years. The proposal represents just under a 3% increase for each of the three years of the agreement. The Business office has worked with the firm of Hawkins Ash CPA since 2009 and found them to be reasonable and professional.

The administration recommends the three year proposal from Hawkins Ash CPA, LLP to provide audit services for the 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years at a cost of \$18,750; \$19,300; and \$19,900 respectively be recommended for approval to the Board of Education.

IV. Updates and Reports

A. Revenue Limit Energy Efficiency Exemption – Update

Listed on Attachment A are the DPI requirements for an Energy Efficiency Exemption to exceed the Revenue Limit. As a result of the new restrictions placed on Fund 80 by the State Legislature, the ability to levy in Fund 80 to cover the cost for Community use of School District facilities has become problematic at best. However, the amount the District has been levying for Fund 80 may be used in the future to address some energy efficiency, security, and deferred maintenance needs in the District without an increase in the tax levy. Edwin Allison has met with representatives from Honeywell to discuss addressing some of those needs.

State Statutes require that projects approved under this Revenue Limit Exemption must be certified to meet performance contracting requirements. Honeywell is able to provide the study and the required certification. Honeywell has quoted a fee of \$45,000.00 for the study and certification which will cover project design and specifications which become the District property even if the Board chooses not to proceed with the project or selects a different contractor. Once the District decides to proceed with the Revenue Limit Energy Efficiency Exemption and selects the projects they would like to see done the fee can become part of the total cost funded through the Revenue Limit exemption.

Business Services Committee Meeting Background – January 5, 2015

One caveat of the program is the legislative requirement that any energy savings identified in the study be used to repay any debt incurred to fund the projects. The only General Fund savings realized from funding projects through this program would be the deferred maintenance and security costs that can now be funded outside the Revenue Limit. The second caveat is the approved projects must be completed in one fiscal year. Timing and planning are critical. Work might need to begin in July and August well before the Board is required to certify the Tax Levy in October.

Additional information is being developed for presentation to the Board of Education at a School Board meeting to be scheduled in January 2015.

V. Agenda Items

Committee members will be asked which agenda items from the Committee meeting will be placed on the consent agenda for the Regular Board of Education meeting.

Revenue Limit, Energy Efficiency Exemption Procedures and Reporting Requirements

Revenue Limit, Energy Efficiency Exemption: Districts must report the school board vote on resolutions to exceed the district's revenue limit authority for the purposes of expending the additional funds for qualifying energy efficiency projects and/or for repayment of debt service costs on a bond or note issued, or a state trust fund loan obtained related to qualifying projects [as permitted under 2013 Wisconsin Act 20]. Board adopts resolution to exceed the revenue limits via energy efficiency exemption - s. 121.91(4)(o), Wis. Stats.

1. Board adopts resolution to exceed the revenue limits via energy efficiency exemption - s. 121.91(4)(o), Wis. Stats.
2. Within 10 days of adopting resolution, the school board shall notify the department of the resolution, as noted below, providing:
 - a. Date of Board Vote
 - b. Type of Referendum/Resolution (Select "Board Resolution to Exceed..." from drop down menu)
 - c. Purpose ("To exceed the revenue limits for FY XX-YY for the purposes of a qualifying energy efficiency project.")
 - d. Actual language
 - e. Certify that the project complies with statutorily mandated performance contracting requirements.
 - f. Tally of "Yes" and "No" Board member votes (Whether the resolution vote passed, failed, or was cancelled)
 - g. Election Certification is not required for this question
 - h. Amount of the exemption (do not use commas or dollar signs)
 - i. Start Year (use first year of fiscal year: 2012 for FY 12-13, for example)
 - j. An end year does not need to be listed as the resolution is for one year only.

NOTE: In 2013 Wisconsin Act 20, **121.91(4)(o)3.** of the statutes was created to read:

"If a school district issues a bond or note or obtains a state trust fund loan to finance a project described in subd. 1. and the school district's utility costs are measurably reduced as a result of the project, the school board shall use the savings to retire the bond, note, or state trust fund loan."

The SFS Team is currently working to revise the Administrative Rules on the Energy Efficiency Exemption to reflect these changes in state law.

Please contact Carey Bradley: carey.bradley@dpi.wi.gov or (608) 267-3752 if you have any questions regarding Energy Efficiency Exemptions.