



CENTRAL MICHIGAN SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS

Serving Central Michigan School Districts

Meeting Minutes **Friday, February 21, 2020**

Members Present: Kellsey Fairris, Rick Jensen, Jon Laing, Elizabeth Lentz, Glenna MacDonald, Tina Monroe, Jesse Nelson, Nancy Rasinske, Lori Schomisch, Donald Sovey, Robert Spagnuolo, Latisha Wolf

Others Present: Rebecca Pensyl, RJ Naughton

Jon Laing opened the meeting at 1:18 pm

Program: Don Sovey “Using Best Practices To Promote District Financial Sustainability”

Highlights:

- **Biggest Challenges Business Officials face:**
 - Time
 - Cross Training
 - Instructional Budget Communication
 - Reporting Volume
 - Too many hats to wear
 - Sustainability
 - Prioritization
 - Competent Support Staff - Candidates
 - Skills, Knowledge, Experience
 - Lack of School Experience
 - Retention
 - Infrastructure Age
 - Staffing Shortage
- **Eight Lessons from “A Better Way to Budget” by Nathan Levenson**
 - Make change feel normal
 - Build a vision before building a budget
 - Engage and enlist principals
 - Take steps to minimize the pain
 - Win over supporters through joint fact finding
 - Make bold and comprehensive plans
 - Craft messages that resonate with stakeholders
 - Get the message out to all supporters and potential supporters.
- **New Challenges Since Proposal A Passed**
 - Technology spending demands
 - Health Insurance Rates
 - Pension rate increases and employee cost sharing

Participation & Cooperation - Our Key to Success

- **Five Supports on Path to Financial Sustainability - Elinor Ostrom; GFOA**
 - Long Term Vision
 - Trust and Open Communication
 - Collective Decision-Making
 - Set Rules
 - Treat People Fairly
- **Long Term Sustainability**
 - Diversity
 - Redundancy
 - Decentralized
 - Transparency
 - Collaboration
 - Fail Gracefully
 - Flexibility
 - Foresight
- **Essential Tenets for Sustainability**
 - Create or refresh the District Strategic Plan Including Fiscal Sustainability Goals
 - Adopt a Successful Governance Model
 - Develop a Proactive Financial Leadership Team
 - Properly Staff and Train Business Services Employees
 - Define your Financial Challenges
 - Consider Succession Planning
 - Install Best Business Practices for Finance and Operations
- **District status of financial health**
 - What is your trajectory?
 - What is your fund balance?
 - What is appropriate?
 - Early Warning Law makes sense

Communications:

- a. Next Meeting: March 20, 2020 –
Craig Kahler, Hilltop Securities: “Municipal Bond Market Update”
- b. MSBO events
 1. February 26: Property Tax Overview, Webinar
 2. March 5: Team Leadership & Performance Evaluations for Personnel, LCC West
 3. March 10: Purchasing Advanced, MSBO Office
 4. March 12: Bonding/Borrowing/Investing & Collective Bargaining Agreements, LCC West
 5. March 18: Labor Relations/Employment Law, LCC West

Regular Business:

- a. Review of January 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Roundtable Discussion:

1. MSBO Conference registration is open as of Feb 12th
2. Dues that are due
 - John will send reminder emails

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3. CMSBO Secretary for next year
 - Latisha Janes confirmed as 2020-2021 CMSBO Secretary
4. Nancy Rasinske: CMSBO Outing
 - Lugnuts Options: June 18th or July 30th
 - Other options/ideas contact Nancy

Gift Card Winner: Rick Jensen

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM