August 28, 2012
FFO Committee Minutes

Members present: R. Ohle, G. Wasserman, J. Kaminski, C. Ellinger, L. Cline, G. Verlinde, C. Laux

Also in attendance: C. Sabourin, B. Sobol

Mrs. Cline gave a preview of the audit results that will be presented at the September meeting. She distributed a chart showing the history of changes in fund balance and net assets since 2000 and explained the role that grants and the sinking fund have played.

In November 2001 the District entered into a twenty year agreement with the City of Midland to jointly fund and maintain the playground at Chippewassee. The agreement contained a provision for early termination that requires MPS to reimburse the City for a prorated share of the costs. Since we no longer own the property, we sought legal advice on our options and have determined that it is in the best interest of the District to exercise the termination clause. The cost to the district is likely to be no more than $10,000.

Mr. Ellinger provided an update on the exploration of implementing a New Tech program. Projected costs and possible funding sources were discussed.

As part of a continued conversation of how best to fund capital needs and program improvements, the committee examined the following topics:

- Mr. Sabourin and Mr. Sobol joined the group to present a three to five year vision for technology upgrades for MPS. The goals are to equip students to remain competitive, prepare for the 21st century workplace, improve learning outcomes and extend learning outside classroom walls.
- Mrs. Cline distributed an updated list of future capital projects originally prepared by Mr. Kostus last year. It includes projects that had initially been included in earlier sinking fund proposals as well as newly identified needs.
- Greater Midland Community Centers, Inc. recently coordinated an extensive study of the aquatic facilities serving Midland County including the MPS pools at Jefferson, Northeast and HHD. Mrs. Cline, who represented the District throughout the study, reviewed the comments and recommendations made regarding our pools.
- Mr. Ellinger reported that we are moving forward with plans for Cobalt Community Research to conduct a survey this fall. The committee had previously participated in a conference call with Cobalt in March 2011 and felt that a community survey would be useful as the Board makes budget decisions.
- Mr. Ellinger and Mrs. Cline reminded the committee of our current tax rates, millage expiration dates and election timelines.

Next meeting: 4 p.m. Monday, September 17, 2012