October 16, 2012 FFO Minutes

Members Present: R. Ohle (chair), G. Wasserman, J. Kaminski, C. Ellinger, G. Verlinde, L. Cline, C. Laux

Others in Attendance: A. Brandstadt arrived at 5:15 for the HR study committee meeting scheduled to begin at 5:30. She did not participate in the FFO meeting.

Mrs. Laux reviewed the September financial reports. They will be included on the consent agenda for the October 22 meeting.

Mrs. Cline reported on the following facilities issues:

- The donation of Longview to the Midland County Educational Service Area is proceeding and should be completed soon. The MCESA plans to convert the building to an early childhood center.

- Northeast and Northwest Little Leagues have approached the district about improving the baseball field at Northeast Middle School.

- The renewal for property and casualty insurance may be on the agenda for the October 22 meeting. Cal Ieuter from Ieuter Insurance is meeting with Mrs. Cline Wednesday morning to discuss the renewal. The stop-loss renewal for our medical plan will also be on an upcoming agenda. *(At the Wednesday meeting with Mr. Ieuter, Mrs. Cline learned that Ieuter Insurance is still getting quotes on our behalf. The renewal will appear as an agenda item in November.)*

Mrs. Cline has been contacted by Kathy Peretz, MPS lead music teacher, about the high school music booster groups’ interest in proceeding with the 10-11 Music subcommittee recommendation to conduct a “Tuning Up” type of fundraiser for uniforms. Representatives will be invited to present their concept to the full Board at an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Ellinger and Mrs. Cline met with representatives from Energy Education, an energy conservation and management company that promises to help us reduce our energy consumption by up to 30%. With nearly $2 million in annual energy expenditures, this is a very attractive proposition. We plan to ask our attorney to review Energy Education’s contract before proceeding.

Mr. Verlinde distributed a draft of the user agreement that students and their parents will sign in order to participate in the iPad pilot. In order to take the iPads home, parents must agree that they will pay 100% of the cost if the unit is lost or stolen. The first claim for a damaged unit will be covered by MPS. A second claim will result in a $25 charge, and subsequent claims must be paid at 100%. Anecdotal experience from other districts indicates that damage claims will be minimal.

Now that the sinking fund has concluded, the district is going to solicit requests for proposals (RFP) for audit services. Mrs. Cline is preparing an RFP that she will send to auditors providing services to larger districts that levy a hold-harmless millage in addition to their regular operational millage. Our current auditor will be included on the list of possible bidders.
Mrs. Cline reminded the group that the current budget includes money for bus replacements. The Michigan School Business Officials has a purchasing program that runs from October 1 through January 31. We used it last year and felt that it was a very efficient and cost-effective way to solicit bids; we intend to use it again this year.

The group engaged in a lively discussion around how the information available in MiSchoolData might be used for marketing purposes.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 20 at 4 p.m.