



ATHLOS SPARTANS

**Athlos Leadership Academy
MN Charter District #4011
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2018
7:45 PM- Conference Room**

**CALL TO ORDER
7:45 AM**

ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present: Kit Murley-Henspeter, Jen Geraghty, Kara Schneeberger
Others Present: Jen Heieie- Special Education Director-Indigo

FINANCE MINUTES

Finance staff suggested that the board go out for bid for the financial auditor.

The committee discussed the 2018-2019 budget and staffing. The goal is to have teacher contracts out by the end of April.

The committee discussed schedules for upcoming school years including number of days, hours, etc.

Kara Schneeberger updated the budget and is adjusting numbers based on current ADM. It is anticipated that ALA will end the year with a deficit. This means that ALA will not meet the bond covenant for days cash on hand. Currently, the budget for the debt service coverage ratio is very close to being out of compliance, at year end, also. This situation arose because \$740 K was overpaid to Athlos for FY17 Sped transportation. It is uncertain at this point how the 740 K Sped will be paid back to the state. ALA might need to take out a line of credit to cover cash.

Kara Schneeberger asked Jen Heieie if any of the Sped transportation costs, YTD, \$701,440, if any will need to be reclassified as general education. Jen Heieie reported that some costs will need to be reclassified and she will get back to finance staff with an estimate. Because we currently do not have an amount, the FY18 budget will be updated again when it is received. This will increase the current year operating deficit since the school will not receive special education funding for those costs.

TIES, ALA's student information system software company is dissolving. Because of this, the school has been seeking other alternatives to serve our needs. A comparative study was conducted. Jen Geraghty shared the results of the study.

Current SIS:

- Using Synergy (product by Edupoint) which is hosted and licensed through TIES in St. Paul.
- TIES notified us in January that their member districts voted to dissolve the joint powers agreement. We are not a member district, however, this decision is causing TIES to no longer support Synergy for us after the 2017-2018 school year.
- Edupoint notified us on March 22nd that they have terminated their Technology Service and Support Agreement with TIES effective June 30th, 2018.
- Support and service of Synergy is still continuing with TIES and service will not be disrupted for the 2017-2018 school year. We have already paid for Synergy licensing and support from TIES through June 30th, 2018.

Where does this leave us?

- Continue using Synergy, but data would need to be migrated to Edupoint directly or Region 1 (based in Moorhead, MN) prior to June 30th so that data services and exports can all be setup in either hosting environment without disruption. Minimal setup and migration costs.
- Move to a new student information system. Moving would mean migrating all Synergy data as well as TIES data to new system. Implementation and migration costs involved. Of the SIS's out there, Infinite Campus is the best and most affordable.

Infinite Campus

- Fully integrated SIS like Synergy that is hosted online and available anywhere with any device. Includes Admin portal with full featured reporting, teacher, student and parent portals.
- The biggest pro is that they have multiple systems fully integrated such as food service, messenger (notifications), and online payments. No additional exports would need to be setup since the data flows directly from Campus and each system talks to the main database.
- Special Education data is completely integrated in the core SIS which includes all necessary state reports, IEP's, evaluations, and more. No additional cost for the special education piece.
- Infinite Campus is located in Blaine, MN and support is available 24/7 online or via phone (5 days a week, 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM).

Our decision – Infinite Campus

- Our current cost to TIES for the core Synergy SIS along with support is \$22,246 annually. If we moved to Region 1 or Edupoint directly, the annual cost would be \$11,986, however, we would not get any other integrated features beyond the core SIS. This cost would only be for hosting and support of Synergy. We also pay for our current third-party messenger service (\$2,000) and third-party food service application (\$1,400) which would make the total for a move to Region 1 or Edupoint about \$15,386 annually. However, since those other applications are not fully integrated, we would have to setup data exports that run nightly from Synergy to import into each application which creates a few points of failure if something ever went down. It also creates more work for our staff to manually enter some food service data in the food service application after it has been imported so that free and reduced counts can be reported accurately in Synergy. Both Region 1 and Edupoint are not local, so any travel costs would be incurred for training or additional support, if required.

- The Infinite Campus SIS, food service, messenger service, hosting and support for all fully integrated products will be about \$15,979 annually. Year 1 implementation costs for the setup, data migration of the core SIS, food service, and messenger will be \$18,920.
- The cost is about the same annually and we will pay for some implementation and data migration services, but having a local company with excellent support and fully integrated products makes it easier and saves time for our admin staff, teachers, and parents.
- Infinite Campus is constantly growing and updating their products and we feel the SIS will support our school for the long road.

ADJOURNMENT

8:30 AM