



Committee Transcript

**Red Clay Community Financial Review Committee
October 13, 2020**

I. Nutrition Presentation

Ms. Jessica Terranova, Red Clay Supervisor of Nutrition, spoke to the Committee regarding the Nutrition practices during the COVID shut down and planned reopening of schools.

Ms. Terranova began with showing the Committee the small pumpkins that were distributed with the meals today. The pumpkins came with decorating ideas, stickers, markers as well as recipes for cooking the pumpkin. Ms. Thompson shared that she delivers Meals on Wheels and witnessed the Colonial bus drivers delivering the free meals from Colonial School District. She stated that they gave the meals to anyone, regardless of age, that came up to the bus.

Ms. Terranova presented Healthy Meals and Healthy Minds even in uncertain times as their theme. They formed a collaboration with the Red Clay Transportation team, formed a task force to get meals out to children immediately after our March shutdown as so many rely on the program. School buses are scheduled to deliver meals at community sites every Tuesday and Thursday. It was two days a week in the beginning as it minimized the amount of time our staff had to be out in the community for less exposure. It was also more convenient for parents to come out of their house two days a week rather than five. We have continued with that program since. Distribution began on March 17th at four sites and on the 18th we expanded an additional 16 sites, which made 20 sites through the end of June.

The greatest challenge was for us to try to buy food that we didn't have to handle as much. We worried of cross contamination and handling. We tried to buy prepackaged foods. Because we shut down so quickly, there was a dilemma with food stockpiled in our freezers, which we are now getting through that inventory. We had commodity, government allocated, foods. We had frozen foods that we had purchased prior to the shut down as well.

March through May data is separate; however, June data was rolled into the summer months. Therefore, March through May we served 150,000 lunch and 150,000 breakfasts. Children and families were very appreciative and we continue to see that appreciation as we continue.

Ms. Terranova showed a comparison graph showing 2018-2019 school year lunch counts versus the 2019-2020 school year. The significant decrease in breakfast 149,347 meals in May 2018 and 66,625 meals this year. It impacted us financially. March through May 2020, we served 267,968 lunches. This sounds great until you know that it is 401,723 less meals in that same period in 2019. Our summer meals went up as we served 17,840 more meals in July and August than the previous year. It made a financial impact as our staff was still being paid.



Committee Transcript

Ms. Thompson asked if the delivery of meals twice a week was one meal or several meals. Ms. Terranova explained March through May, we delivered Monday through Friday and now we are delivering Monday through Sunday. Picking up on Tuesday, they received lunch for Tuesday, breakfast and lunch for Wednesday, and breakfast for Thursday. When they picked up on Thursday, they received lunch for Thursday, breakfast and lunch for Friday and Monday and breakfast for Tuesday. Picking up both days gave them 5 lunches and 5 breakfasts. Normally, we operate under the national school lunch program, however currently we are under the summer food service program, which allows us to serve children without identifying financial eligibilities or where they attend school. Documentation-wise, it makes it easier on our staff, with less paperwork. If an adult comes up to the bus and states they have five children at home, we are to take that at face value. That is something the USDA announced in March. Usually, you have to have the child present during pick up, but due to current circumstances, the parent can pick up without the student. That is continuing currently.

We continue to pay our staff at their current rates. We try to have our staff work as many hours that they could, but only what was needed. We don't want staff overexposed in the buildings. We staggered staff schedules and maintained an average amount of hours starting with week one. There was never a break. Their department was hit the hardest, as they had to pivot and get everything ready within days of closure. Now, we are in a good system. March to May 31st comparing the data to this year, we lost approximately less reimbursement revenue which is reimbursement from the government for every meal we serve. We made \$416,000 less in reimbursement revenue, and \$450,000 less in meal sale and ala carte items. Those are children who are full paid meals, second meals or an additional item such as water and adult meals. We also lost about \$32,000 from after school snack and dinner programs. We provide snacks and meals for after school programs and the government reimburses us through the student and adult feeding programs. It is just shy of \$900,000 that we lost in just two months.

Our expenses were down; however, as we didn't have to buy as much to serve the number of students we serve. On average, we serve 12,000 lunches and 5,500 breakfasts each day. We didn't have to buy the food for those unserved meals but we did continue to pay our staff. We're doing ok. It is a big financial impact to our program. Ms. Floore added that we don't have that option of lasting forever.

Ms. Terranova explained that the funding for the Nutrition Department is not by the district. They are funded by federal reimbursement programs. They receive sales from meals of ala carte items, adult meals, and catering. The State of De reimburse us for a certain number of State salaries for employees. We are always trying to find creative ways to get students to participate. We treat our department as a business. Without kids participating, our revenue sinks. We do a lot of promotion of customer service. Our staff does not treat the students as kids, but as a customer. If the child has a bad experience with a lunch person, they will not continue to buy from us. We engage and try to make it a good experience.



Committee Transcript

As stated earlier, today we gave out craft bags with pumpkins with our meals. Dr. Ammann was a big part of the process. Mothers' Day we gave out a carton to garden. We gave out milk cartons with directions on how to make it into a garden along with marigold seeds, cucumber seeds, another edible flower and a baggie potting soil as well as a card. Often times during school, we have Mothers and Father's Day crafts. On Fathers' Day, we did pizza kits. We bought premade dough, and bagged up cheese and sauce as well as a card. The kits provide a craft and also gets them involved in cooking which is what our program is about.

Operations have changed since spring of 2020. When the shutdown first happened, we couldn't utilize our stock on hand with anticipation of serving 18,000 students as we order weekly. We had to discard some of our produce even with giving out as much as we could to shelters, etc. For the most part, we were able to utilize the perishable inventory. The inventory that was able to stay in the freezer, that we couldn't use without the proper handling and distribution to the community, minimizing contact in the kitchens, we still had. Now, we have acquired a sealer. You fill a tray and put it into a conveyor belt and it seals the top of the tray similar to a TV dinner. It helped us utilize our inventory in our freezers. It was very well received by the community and staff. This also helps us financially utilizing the inventory on our shelves.

We continue to stay with Tuesday and Thursday for meal distributions. Efficiency for production and for parents only having to come out twice a week. We also added an evening shift from 4:00-6:00 PM which has been very well received. The daytime distribution is 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, and for working parents, that was inconvenient. We want the families to have the opportunity to get the meals. Baltz and Stanton evening shifts are very popular.

We continue to operate under the summer food service program where all children 18 and under can receive a free meal without verification. Leading into the school year and remote learning, we were told that we had to collect meal benefit forms, and only give meals to children who were eligible. We do have a CDP school (where all children get free meals) or submitted a meal benefit form, then we could give them meals. We then gave our staff the information with a two-hour training, and the USDA announced the Monday before remote learning began, that the summer food service program would continue. This was good news, but the planning we had just put in place was for naught. But all students can come up and get the meals during the school day and the parents can come up and pick up meals for their children. We have distribution at all Red Clay schools as well as 16 remote bus locations.

Zoomtastic meals are like the TV dinners. We sent information to the principals to include in their school zoom meetings to advertise and encourage the meal pick up. Parents may not know about the program or think that it may not be available to them. Situations change daily, so parents need to know. It's quick and convenient. The TV dinners are menus such as the students would have during the school day. They have a film on top and can be popped into the microwave.



Committee Transcript

We are held to nutrition standards set by USDA. Whole grains, fruits, vegetables, low fat dairy, and lean protein sources. It is a much healthier alternative than what they may get especially in these hard times. Nourishment is important to learning.

We have staff working on a rotational basis. We thought about serving meals Monday through Friday keeping more staff working, but keeping staff safe and the community served, keeping the Tuesday and Thursday program was working smarter. Our staff still works every day, but they are limited in their contact during the packaging days. It is completely different than the program we signed up for initially.

We have a lot of canned food that has been on our shelves since spring. Our staff opens the larger cans and repackages it onto the trays to be sealed. It is called our Seal Team. Last Friday they packaged and sealed 5,400 meals in one shift. There is a lot happening each day to meet the demand. Ms. Thompson asked if we cook it. Ms. Terranova explained that the products are canned or precooked and just need to be reheated by the parent. If the product starts to thaw, we have a blast chiller, a large walk in refrigerator, and it freezes faster than the regular freezer and maintains the quality of the food. Years ago, Ms. Terranova was interested in cooking meals that started raw, rather than ordering pre-cooked. The problem is that not all of our staff is trained well enough in handling raw foods and cross contamination. Doing it on a large scale is hard to manage and not as safe. We then went to pre-cooked foods and spent our time using recipes to make the products taste better and more appealing. For example, teriyaki broccoli or jack frosted vegetables. We do serve some vegetables and fruit raw.

Ms. Thompson asked if this is less expensive than purchasing the items pre-cooked and individually wrapped. Ms. Terranova explained that it is. The trays are more expensive than what we'd like to pay for this application, but it is definitely cheaper than individually wrapped products. We can offer more variety and at a higher quality. Making it more like a home-cooked meal. It is saving us money. We are using our inventory and using our commodity products. Depending on the number of meals we serve each year, we earn food from the government. The food isn't from the government. We earn pounds of food. If we buy sun kissed chicken, and we earn some from the government, they will offer us pounds of that same chicken at a reduced price. Canned foods and frozen vegetables are also able to be obtained through the commodity product price.

All of the meals are being packaged at Stanton Middle School. We are getting two more tray sealers, so we will be able to distribute more evenly than all from one school. The packing of 5,400 trays from one location and shipping to 26 schools is quite an operation. Quite impressive. They are using bakeshop bins, but we are purchasing them from other places like Home Depot for transport. Transportation is helping get the food to the various sites. Mr. Chase asked if when the students return to school, would they be eating from those trays as well. Ms. Terranova explained that in some instances it is. If the students are eating in the cafeteria, they will receive a standard service. We'll still have to give them their food in a container with a cover. The most economical option is Styrofoam with a hinged lid, but that goes against "being green". However, we need to



Committee Transcript

think economically. It's a tough area right now. In Warner, the principal would like to do 100% in classroom feeding rather than a hybrid model where they rotate to the cafeteria. In the classroom, the students receive a cold meal, but in the cafeteria, they would receive a hot meal. We don't want the students to be only eligible for a cold meal. In the case of Warner, where it is 100% classroom, we would use the seal trays delivered to the classroom a few times a week rather than a cold meal every day. This will also be used at the Early Learning Center, as there is no kitchen there. We can no longer do family style due to COVID.

Mr. Chase asked if we purchased the sealer machines. Ms. Terranova explained that the sealers are leased. Our lease states, that in order to continue the lease, we have to buy their trays. Ms. Terranova added that we have interns from the University of Delaware. We have one intern currently working on a feasibility study on how else we can use the trays post COVID. We do have a dinner program for students who stay after school in programs that we could use them. We also look into a backpack program that may use them. The Early Learning Center could continue to use them.

We have picked up schools out of our district. Edison Charter, Gateway Lab School and Urban Promise. Urban Promise doesn't have a kitchen. Therefore, we've been making food and distributing it in their line. This would be a great option.

Ms. Thompson asked if it was sealed and then able to put in an oven like Meals on Wheels. Mrs. Terranova explained that it was. Mr. Chase commented that it is better than the paper bags of the past. Ms. Terranova stated that Nutrition will more than likely not maintain 3 leases as the usage diminishes and COVID practices aren't necessary. But we will keep one and find applications for it, even if just for summer feeding programs. Mr. Schwartz commented that it is a very impressive operation. Ms. Terranova praised her amazing team in Nutrition. Delaware's First Lady visited them today to present our First Chance Award. She made a comment on how great the nutrition workers' attitudes have been through this process of COVID feeding programs. Our staff has been very willing to turn on a dime and adjust their schedules. They are grateful to have the opportunity to work and serve the students at this time. They are willing to jump in and do what's needed. Without that, our ship would have sank.

Another contributor to this success has been our transportation team. Without them, we would not have been able to get the meals to the students outside of the school properties. Kelly Shahan, Transportation, worked with us immediately to arrange the program. The bus drivers themselves were eager and happy to have the opportunity to work and provide these meals to the students. They are very caring individuals. It has been a non-stop operation. It was extremely strenuous loading the buses, not knowing how many needed to be served at a site, as well as running low and restocking the site. They have bus drivers driving the buses, aides from the buses distributing the food and runners currently to help with the distribution. We have the transportation team helping to get the meals to the community as well as Nutrition drivers.



Committee Transcript

Teamwork makes the dream work. This has been our motto for some time. Teamwork has made this operation so successful. The enthusiasm is very high.

Ms. Terranova displayed a picture of the new serving line at Mote. There is even VIP seating, however that is only for one person right now. If a student received an extra point or kudos, they can use them to sit at the VIP seating. We want to make the cafeteria a fun experience. We have wall wraps for decoration as well. Ms. Thompson asked if the wraps were from the Nutrition budget. Ms. Terranova explained that they are from her budget. For 6 years we have continued the process in transforming cafeterias. It is not expensive for the impact you get. Ms. Thompson asked if the budget paid for the food line changes. Ms. Terranova explained that her budget paid for all of our equipment, equipment repairs, as well as anything that is related from the serving line back. Our budget has been able to handle some cafeteria tables as well. The cafeteria renovation at Dickinson was funded by Nutrition's budget. High top tables and booths to make it fun for the students once COVID is under control. The students like it very much.

Mr. Matthews wanted more explanation on the lost revenue this year. Would you be able to backfill any of that with CARES Act funding. Ms. Terranova explained that it is not. We have applied for a couple grants in May. We received roughly \$5,000 from that funding. Not as much as we lost. We usually have a great carryover balance, but that is not the case now. Ms. Floore explained that there were some districts that did that. It wasn't prohibited, it just depended on the balances needed and funding sources.

Ms. Rattenni asked if we are providing more meals, was the lost revenue due to the reimbursement deficit. Ms. Terranova explained that the meals that we served on average in the Month of May, we served approximately 12,000 meals per day for lunch and 5,500 for breakfast versus COVID we were only reaching between 3,000-6,000 and we were averaging 2,700 right now. Every meal we serve, the government currently gives us reimbursement at the free rate. March through May, we served 400,000 fewer meals than the same period the prior year and our summer months we only served 17,400 more meals than the prior year.

Ms. Rattenni asked about with remote learning, if a parent opts out of in-person instruction, will they be eligible for meals. Ms. Terranova explained that the students in school will receive meals, and any day they are not in school, they are eligible to pick up meals. We're not sure at this time how the remote meals locations will be set up but they will not be at every school or site. We will designate 7-8 schools that will have meal distribution times for parents to pick up during that time for their remote students.

Mr. Schwartz asked how the meals would work for in school instruction. Ms. Terranova stated that students eating in the cafeteria, we are trying to make it as normal as possible. Students will not be able individual milks for example. There will be more from the service side by our staff. It will be a semi-normal experience for the students eating in the cafeteria. For the students eating in the classroom, we are in the final stages of designing a meal pre-order system. Were parents and teachers will have the option to go



Committee Transcript

online and order the lunches and breakfast ahead of time? The cafeteria will get a printout of the orders. Those meals will be delivered or picked up to the classroom. We are trying to figure out the covering of the food when the student leaves the serving line and walks to their table in the cafeteria. We looked at different types of products, i.e., wax paper, Styrofoam, and the economic feasibility of it and the trash volume. We are focusing on being creative on meal applications without wasting containers.

Ms. Floore asked about EBT cards. Ms. Terranova explained it was handled by the Department of Health and Social Services. They reached out to us and asked us to provide them with the list of students eligible for free and reduced lunch at non-CEP schools. That is seven Red Clay schools. The rest of the schools operate under Community Eligibility Provision meaning there are enough students in a school who are eligible for benefits that we designate all students at the school eat free. Ms. Floore added that those students don't apply for the eligibility; it is pulled from the DHSS system. Ms. Terranova explained that it is a four-year cycle and we analyzed our data last year and categorized schools as CEP and keep that data for four years. If it goes down, you can always recertify the data. If 60% of the students are eligible free, we use an equation and the average claim at the free rate is 80%, you receive \$3 and the 20% you receive the reduced at \$.30. Just because a school may meet the criteria, economically, it may not make sense to identify as a CEP school. There are schools we could group together, but that would cost us hundreds of thousands of dollars each month. We run each scenario and have as many schools as we can.

Any student who gets free and reduced lunch plus those who attend a CEP school, receive an EBT card. This includes Dickinson, H B Middle, Warner, Shortlidge, Highlands, and McKean. Ms. Floore added that that the cards are the equivalent of cash to be used for groceries. Ms. Thompson asked if they get that routinely. Ms. Terranova explained that the cards were loaded with a figure a bit over \$5 a day that the students were not in school March through May. The students were issued the card as a one-time benefit. Mr. Schwartz has a student at McKean who received the card. They were told that the students would get an additional card for benefits in August and September when they were to be physically back in school. Ms. Terranova stated that those cards have already been distributed and sent to the homes. She has received calls from parents who do not need it and want to know what to do with it. You don't have to use it. Many questions surrounding the program. It was extremely helpful to many families. The cards are nontransferable. If the family does not want to use the benefit, the card should be destroyed.

The Committee thanked Ms. Terranova for her presentation and praised the accomplishments of she and her team.

II. Minutes

The September 2020 Minutes and Transcript were reviewed. Ms. Thompson moved to accept the minutes and Mr. Matthews seconded. The motion carried.



Committee Transcript

III. Expenditure Report

Ms. Floore distributed copies of the September 2020 Expenditure Report. Last year we missed the September meeting. Therefore, the FY20 expenditures for September 2019 are not listed. We would expect to see 25%.

We are at 59% of revenues received. The really important revenue deposit is next month when we see the taxes come in. We are slightly down in the September receipts last year to this year, about \$400,000. The taxes were due September 30th. Our current receipts are from taxpayers paying early. There was some confusion as the County allowed an extension on the County taxes for 6 months, but that doesn't apply to school taxes. We'll have to wait and see a few more weeks. The funding is due September 30th, but we receive it at the end of October.

Payroll is 7 out of 26 pays, which is slightly more than 25% of the year. If you see the total expenses are 23.5% expended and 25% expended and encumbered.

One of the overages is Drivers' Ed. The students are driving and making up hours. There was such a backlog of students who want their driver's license. The only other one is Summer School. Summer School looks huge; however, the budget itself was \$15,000. \$26,000 included some of the summer programs for special education students. 177% looks outrageous, but it is only \$11,000 in total number.

We did just receive the CARES Act funding. They passed the bill in March and we just received the funding. We can recode expenses, as we knew it was coming. These would be expenses we needed for PPE for the start of school and summer school, as well as preparation for online learning. All of those are eligible. For a long time, there was the belief from US Dept. of Education, that a large portion of the funding go to the non-public schools based on pure enrollment, not poverty data. When we submitted our data, it is based on poverty and not enrollment. Ms. Thompson asked what state struck it down. Ms. Thompson asked where it will show up as income on the spreadsheet. Ms. Floore explained that it doesn't as of September 30th. It will show up as federal money ESSRF next month as it was received just recently. These are items that were already committed. This Committee has already had presentations from Dr. Ammann regarding the PPE, computers and technology, and facilities improvements. Nothing in the operating budget is Nutrition. Ms. Terranova's budget is entirely federally funded or funded through meal payments. Ms. Thompson asked if Ms. Floore handled the Nutrition budget. Ms. Floore explained that she oversees it. We don't prepare it, but do review all of the reports to the State. There are checks and balances. Gail Gerace in Nutrition handles it in Nutrition. It has its own nuances and complications with federal monies, but there are also State salaries. Even part-time workers have portions of their salary that come from the State or local funds. There is a collective bargaining agreement with the Nutrition workers.



Committee Transcript

Ms. Thompson asked on Page 5 why there are two different summaries. Ms. Floore explained they are two separate funding years. One year is starting while the other is winding down.

Tuition based programs we are at 23.5% for Meadowood and 20.8% expended 26% expended and encumbered for the early years program. That is largely driven by salaries which have all continued during remote instruction. Ms. Thompson asked about the other programs on Page 6. The Consortium, Kingswood and Parkway schools, is at 0%. Those students are still in those schools and under remote instruction in those schools. Vo Tech is the fiscal agent and hasn't billed us yet. First State is driven by the Christiana Care contract. Those students are still in remote instruction school, but we have not been billed as yet. They are also doing therapeutic tele-health. We have not modified the contract. It is all dependent on what is happening during remote instruction. Unique Alternatives again are the private placement special education students, and they are also under remote instruction. In some cases they are doing in person instruction. It is a case-by-case basis and what therapeutic instruction is available in those placements. Behavior support placements did not close, and the students are still living there in most cases.

Minor capital is two year funding. Across the district, you can see the external and internal changes that were made. Facilities made use of the time that students were not in the buildings. Truly, between the maintenance and custodial staff, they have been incredible. The buildings are in excellent shape.

Ms. Rattenni asked about fiscal year end June 30, 2020, funds that were needed for COVID preparations were coded to Contingency. Will those funds be back billed against the CARES Act grant? Ms. Floore explained that the money can be coded all the way back through March until the end of 2020. Ms. Rattenni is referring to the Technology purchase coded to Contingency. That is one that will be back charged. As well as the PPE and preparation for summer learning and return to class instruction. What we will see is the lines reduced in expenses and the expense show under the federal CARES line. The computers, remote platforms have already been expended and will be recoded. The bottom of Page 5 Federal FY21 funds \$5.1 million. However, for expenses in the prior fiscal year of FY20, the budget is closed. You will not see a new FY20 budget. We went over budget in FY20 knowing that this funding was coming.

Ms. Rattenni asked if we have a bottom line of what has been expended on COVID related instruction so far. Ms. Floore explained that some of it is intertwined, as Dr. Ammann presented, with one-on-one technology instruction already happening. We had to buy so much more adding Kindergarten and first grade. The majority, and what we're working with the departments on, we submitted the plans in March and we're just receiving the funding eight months later. Even though we had plans in March, the world changed multiple times since then. We didn't know we would be doing online instruction August and September. How do our expenses match what we planned and how do we have to adjust. We have been planning and preparing for the return to school, so much has already been purchased. There isn't a list we've been waiting on the funding for, as waiting was not an option. We are tracking all of it.



Committee Transcript

For example, we did summer school as well as in-person evaluations over the summer. IEPs are still in place. Therefore, we needed to keep up instruction or be vulnerable to challenges on time requirement provisions. Things were happening but we had extra hours over the summer for these people to do the in-person evaluations. We can easily code that to CARES funding. We don't have to, and it can come from the special education budget. We would prefer to keep special education whole as it needs the budget. Therefore, when we go through everything that was spent, not everything that was eligible for CARES funding will be charged to it. We will look through and decipher what is eligible and what is part of our plan.

Ms. Thompson asked about curriculum and instruction at 45% and public communication is 43%. Ms. Floore explained that the C&I is high as they have the major purchases pivoting to remote instruction was costly. Some of that will disappear, as it will be paid for with the CARES funding. Some of it is regularly ongoing digital subscriptions for the year. Some of the expenses in the summer are in preparation for the year. Next month will be a better comparison to what it was last year. The same with public communication. The student websites that are run come through that budget. Those are often annual expenses. Ms. Thompson noted maintenance is also high. Ms. Floore explained that is the PPE, cleaning items and filters and changes made that can be paid now through the CARES funding.

IV. DOE Law Suit

Ms. Floore distributed the recommendations stemming from the lawsuit brought by the ACLU against Delaware's Department of Education. It is not done as it has to be approved by the general assembly, however, Ms. Floore wanted the Committee to have a copy. Both sides announced the agreement. We haven't seen if there was a statement from the ACLU or NAACP? Mr. Matthews thought that there was one. He is happy that there is some improvement in funding, but he wants to know what teacher development and retention will look like in high needs schools. Will there be bonus offerings again, which hadn't worked in the past. \$60 million annually, what is Red Clay's cut. Ms. Floore stated 15%, \$9 million. Mr. Matthews doesn't believe that \$9 million will help with systemic changes in a district our size. Ms. Thompson stated that Representative Kim Williams is working to get it into the unit count. Mr. Matthews added that Opportunity funding of \$60 million per year over 19 school districts. He was on an adhoc committee with ACLU and they looked at numbers 2 years ago. Looking to make systemic changes would take \$300-\$400 million per year across the state. Ms. Floore added that was what the WEIC report had come to as well. Mr. Matthews welcomes the \$60 million, but it won't make the changes needed for the students to be proficient on the Smarter Balance testing.

Ms. Thompson asked about weighted funding in the unit count. Ms. Floore explained that the Opportunity fund is \$500, which is the weight, per student. This more than doubles it, but what is the right number. There can be multiple tiers. Someone new to this country, the level of support and support needed, is just like the levels of support



Committee Transcript

needed in special education. Someone who is in their 7th year in the ELL program, should require, all other factors being equal, less support than someone new to the country. We don't know the nuance of this program. We would hope it would be nuanced enough for those supports. The basic, intense and complex categories do drive support services and funding toward students. Is \$1,000 be the right amount? It may be for some but not for others. Between this, reassessment winning, these are big issues.

Ms. Thompson asked if Redding was still looking to redistricting. Ms. Floore is on the funding committee and is not tied directly to redistricting at this point.

Mr. Chase asked about the reassessment portion. Ms. Floore explained the NAACP and ACLU lawsuit was broken into two parts by the judge. The first was the County's lack of property reassessment. It was found in the plaintiff's favor and that is unlawful not to have done reassessment. Our understanding is that they had until mid-October to come to a remedy. The County has said they will give a remedy as they do not want the courts to give the remedy. We were only speaking to New Castle County, and this was an entire State lawsuit. They have to submit their plans to the judge and they cannot be outlandish. In this area, the County will have more expertise in completing a reassessment. It has been so long, a large part of it will be boots on the ground. It will be a lengthy process. The second part of the lawsuit was equity and that is what this latest information is about.

Mr. Chase stated that there are winners and losers. If the reassessment won't help the situation, why do it. Ms. Floore answered, the critical component is regular and recurring. Property values can go up or go down. Mr. Chase thought that house sales included a reassessment. Not in Delaware. Ms. Thompson stated that provides an unnecessary tax burden for those homes that turn over vs those in their homes for years.

V. Public Comment

There was no outside public comment.

VI. Announcements

We had several people apply to become members of the CFRC. We advertised for openings. The process is that Mr. Green has to form a committee for review. Our bylaws do not include a maximum number of members. Ms. Floore asked the Committee if they were looking for a number of members or should we tell the review committee that they could all be included. Ms. Thompson stated that they should all be invited. Ms. Floore agreed as there are always schedule conflicts for one or two members. Mr. Chase asked about a quorum. Ms. Rattenni stated that it is the majority of the members in attendance. Ms. Floore added that the bylaws state the Committee should be at least 6 members with 2 with formal educational background on the oversight of financial statements. That is language the State had that we incorporated. Ms. Thompson added the new members have to go through State training.



Committee Transcript

Ms. Floore added that the theory is that the Committee should not pick its own members. Therefore, the Superintendent must form a committee of at least one Red Clay Board member, one member of RCEA and two community members. There will be a meeting of applications and a report back.

Mr. Matthews reported that Kim Stock, McKean teacher, is the State of DE Teacher of the Year.

The next meeting is November 10, 2020 at 6:00 PM in the Baltz District Office Board Room with call-in access.