

Minutes of **Bethel Board of Education Finance Committee** Meeting held on
December 18, 2008 in BOE Conference Room E

Attendees:

Stuart Carlsen
Kris Harrison
Larry Craybas

Other Board Members Attending:
William Kingston

Administrative Attendance: G. Chesley, T. Yonsky

Stuart Carlsen, Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM

1. 2008/9 Budget

T. Yonsky, Director of Fiscal Services reported on the following items affecting this Budget:

- a. Consideration is being given to closing down the school buildings when they are not occupied
- b. The High School thermostats appear to be set at too high a temperature. Dr. Chesley will investigate and take appropriate action to minimize heating oil costs while maintaining effective learning conditions.
- c. A freeze in custodians' overtime (except in response to emergencies) has been established
- d. All discretionary spending has also been frozen with exceptions subject to the approval of the Director of Fiscal Affairs
- e. Health insurance costs have been negatively impacted by two factors:
 - i Action by the State Legislature raising the age of dependents' eligibility to twenty (26) years.
 - ii An increase in participation in our health insurance plan by staff previously covered by their spouses plan
 - iii Estimated aggregate negative impact \$100,000.
- f. A \$37,000 heating oil credit has been received

2. 2009/10 Budget

T. Yonsky, Director of Fiscal Services reported on the following items affecting this Budget:

- a. Anthem, our current health insurance carrier has submitted a bid for 2009/10 increasing their rates by 13%. Therefore, we are soliciting competitive bids from other carriers. Two (2) outstanding claims for \$400,000 are responsible in large part for this rate increase. While these claims will survive any change in carrier a lower bid could result from lower administrative costs by a competitor.

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b. A change in prescription drug carrier to Medco will be made generating a \$75,000 savings in premiums.

Upon motion duly made by Craybas, seconded by Harrison and carried unanimously the Committee adjourned at 6:45 PM