

Finance/Budget Workshop Minutes

March 01, 2021

Zoom Meeting 6:30 PM

Members Present: Bill MacDonald, Robin McNeil, Corinna Caron, Ryan Parker, Mark Guzzi, Veronica Nicholson, Kathy Neill

Members Absent: Etna Vacancy

Others Present: Mike Hammer, Joe Chadbourne, Dean Cray, Lori Mellow, Maxine Pare, Jane Stork, Ellen Surprenant, Angela Brown, Suzanne Nowinski

I. **Public Comment** - None

II. **Budget Review**

A. Transportation

Dean and Joe presented the proposed Transportation budget for 2021. As proposed, this budget has an increase of \$57,000. This budget includes increasing a mechanic aide position from half time to full time. It also reflects the change from using private drivers to district staff drivers. Wages and Health Insurance costs are up due to increased District contribution being negotiated with the Transportation Association. We are seeing fuel savings from the engines in the newer busses allowing us to reduce the budget request for fuel. As we are progressing towards a newer fleet, we are reducing supply cost as well as we are anticipating less need for major repairs. We are proposing purchasing two new busses next year through the state reimbursement plan. We will finance these busses over three years instead of the five years we have done previously.

B. Improvement of Instruction

Lori and Joe presented the Improvement of Instruction budget. The proposed budget reflects an increase of \$44,000. The primary reason for this increase is Professional Credits. The proposed budget reflects a \$43,000 increase in Professional Credits. Lori has been able to pick up a lot of these costs with Title

funds but does not anticipate that will be possible next year and will push this cost to the local budget.

C. System Administration

System Administration is down by roughly -\$22,000 in the proposed budget. The main reason for this decrease is in the 2021 budget we budgeted to replace the financial system software. That expense was roughly \$70,000. Offsetting items include additional funds to support the new software; we are now hosted on our software providers server as opposed to local servers. We are also proposing funds to begin the process of adding a time clock system to move away from paper time cards to automate that process. Other increases surrounded wage and health insurance costs.

D. Debt Service

Debt Service will increase by roughly \$30,000 in the 2022 budget. This is due to a third bond for \$1 million dollars being issued to complete the new NRH/MS. This expense will be offset by state revenue as this is a state funded bond. Of note, we will be making our final bond payment in November of 2021 on the old middle schools. This will reduce local debt payments by \$125,000 in the 2023 budget.

III. **Other**

None

IV. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Chadbourne, Business Manager