

Budget Study Session followed by Board of Education Meeting, Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Generated by Rhonda Schaefer, District Clerk

Members present

Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Amy West

Members absent

Dave Ghidui, Stephanie Templeton, Larry Young

1. Budget Study Session

Discussion, Information: B. Budget Process Overview

2. Special Education Program Budget Overview

Discussion, Information: A. Special Education Program Budget Overview

Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Lindsay Ali, and staff members provided their budget overview presentation, including a powerpoint, budget overview, Special Ed program report, Special Ed data graphs, Budget and Staffing: (All supporting documents are duly kept a part of the BoardDocs packet).

Dan Englert, Middle School Special Education Teacher
 Jodie Kwiatwoski, Manor School Special Education Teacher
 Trice Tate, HS Counselor
 Nicole Winters, Manor Counselor
 Amy Mulhern, School Social Worker at HS

Mrs. Tate lead off with a mindful activity including breathing, positive thinking, thinking ahead, resolutions, reaching goals, and believing that all possibilities are open to you.

Mrs. Ali highlighted the staff who supports students in each building. She also highlighted the duet model being used in the buildings.

Dan Englert and Jodie Kiawtkowski highlighted the co-teaching efforts that core staff have been trained in and are implementing in the buildings in stages, as outlined in the supporting materials posted in BoardDocs.

Mrs. Ali further explained that co-teaching helps students to feel part of a team.

2019-20 Successes were highlighted as outlined in the BoardDocs packet.

Amy Mulhern explained her role in the high school, typically made by referral. Caseload of approx. 40-60 students. Counseling evaluations are conducted, and if needed, a schedule is established. A wide variety of mental health topics are addressed and provided coping skills and a way to share feelings. Crisis counseling is also provided, as needed. She further explained her collaboration efforts with counselors, teachers, administrators, and parents, as well as students. 7 C's of Resilience are taught to help students manage challenges. Her time is approximately 80% with regularly scheduled visits, and 20% + with students in crisis.

2020-2021 Goals were also discussed, as highlighted in the powerpoint presentation.

Finally, budget requests were reviewed and are also highlighted in the presentation materials. Mr. Englert provided a handout, "A Day in a Co-Taught 8th Grade Classroom", which will be added to the BoardDocs supporting documents. Finally, a short video was played, highlighting a day in the life of special education students, who explained in their opinions, why co-teaching is beneficial.

Upon conclusion of the presentation, questions were opened to the floor:

Q - What is the goal for overall co-teaching classes? A - Short term goal is to increase at MS and HS, possibly SS and English. Q

- How much of the need is unmet now? A - There will still be consultant teacher services and separate settings, however, the main goal is having co-teaching available for those who need it.

Q - Co-teaching in Math, is this due to Common Core? A - No, it is primarily due to need. There is still a need at HS levels for other subjects.

Q - Absenteeism, at HS? A - No, Districtwide. The absenteeism report is not in this report, but this is identified as being needed across the total school population across the District. Chronic absenteeism is identified as more than 10% of the school year.

Q - Where did the 8% target come from? A - How students are performing and taking an average of the student population. There are guidelines but these are trends and needs in our own students.

Q - Students with special needs? A - All students with IEP's.

Q - How do you balance the needs of all students and resources being used by this population. A - Co-teaching allows getting to all students, all the time. Meeting all students where they are at. A - Planning in advance for differentiating needs while focusing on whole group instruction.

Q - Co-teaching represents a shift from specializing in specific areas? Are there paras in the classroom with co-teaching? A -

Working with a partner is a focused approach and process which is required in order to keep balance. Q - How does a para factor in? A - A para will not be providing instruction, they would remain a support. Paras would like more training in this area. They wish to support and have the skill set needed. Respecting each other as professionals, mastering in their own ways, to create a balanced approach. Gen. Ed. teachers are also interested in further training to support this approach.

The superintendent explained a scenario which used to be in place, versus now, the direction to co-plan and co-teach, while eliminating time being unplanned as a support, and being prepared. The efficiency is on two professionals working together.

Some teachers in the audience shared their support of the new, more efficient model. We are also supporting high end students, with rigor and multiple opportunities. All students benefit from this special ed model.

Q - Mindfulness exercises, is this an example of coping skills? A - This is one among many.

3. Middle School Program and Budget Overview

Discussion, Information: A. Middle School Program and Budget Overview Presentation

Shawn Williams, MS Principal, presented along with SIT chairs - Nick DiMartino and Rob Sanford, along with Linda Willey.

Mrs. Willey spoke about reciprocal teaching and the power of this approach, and explained that reading materials are the main focus for her teaching model, while tying into curriculum and earning value through relevance, with core teachers. Mrs. Willey highlighted how she finds articles throughout the year to support her teaching lessons. She recently realized, due to a cross-over of 8th and 6th grade classes, the opportunity to build a reciprocal model of teaching, where students teach other students. Frameworks for thinking, along with graphic organizers, and planning were all implemented and the idea was born from the novel, Refugee.

Mr. Williams echoed this level of teaching to assist with student understanding, and "thinking like a teacher", provides a sense of community. He further explained the interdisciplinary and creative design and connected learning opportunities. A technology teacher echoed in that common language and approaches and methods being used by teachers is sought, to tie into his own teaching.

Mr. Williams highlighted the efforts to explore opportunities, as outlined in the powerpoint presentation, duly kept a part of the BoardDocs packet. This, along with the Schools to Watch designation and approaches implemented to achieving this designation. Teachers have opportunities to share these approaches at national conferences, such as in Washington D.C.

Zachary Clarry solicited ideas for fundraising for the upcoming trip for students.

Mr. Williams went on to highlight 2018-19 SIT & Academic Goals, achieved last school year as highlighted and outlined in the supporting documentation in the packet.

Mr. Sanford showcased the Goals of Engagement, which was a school-wide project looking at technology, and aligns with the District's mission for students to evolve in a rapidly changing world. Measures and rubrics were designed and are duly kept a part of the BoardDocs packet. PBL was a learning outcome and was reflective, providing many ways to improve and engage students in interesting topics.

Mr. Williams reflected on data from iReady, which is used as a universal screening tool. Additionally, the MS School Improvement Team (SIT), collaborated by attending a Solution Tree training to learn more about vertical alignment, which can be realized during the PLC Process, Habits of the Mind, RTI, and multi-tiered approaches, as highlighted in the materials provided. The PLC time is purposefully used to utilize some of the learning and practices in teaching.

The team has gained a re-focus on achieving their 2019-20 academic goals and engagement goals, as highlighted in the powerpoint slides.

Q - Please clarify about shifting of funds from Quebec Trip? Where is this reflected? A - Mr. Williams described the shifting based on need, adding that things fluctuate year to year.

Q - Schools to Watch - What does it do? What does it cost? Is it for a badge? A - STW is grounded in research and requires the reflective process and provides a framework for best practice. A - Rubric and resources are free to use, and helps to prioritize school improvement. Schools to Watch are also meant to serve as role model schools. If a school is designated as a STW, you are then committed to go present to share some aspects of your program, so there could be some travel expenses. Overall, it provides a framework for structure, it's not about getting a trophy.

C - Amy West announced that she was on the STW committee and also sat on the SIT team, so she saw first hand the collaboration that resulted from the Schools to Watch process. It helped to bring teachers on board.

C - Mr. Williams emphasized that this process has allowed the school to become fine-tuned and allows them to take next steps. These schools are also great company to keep and will provide honest, productive feedback during site visits. Very valuable.

Q - Integration started off this evening, where does the school stand on this? A - It doesn't stand on this specific point of view, however, these types of activities provide opportunities to students to engage and embark upon.

C - Student driven improvement is apparent.

4. Board of Education and Program Budget Advisory Council Feedback to:

Discussion, Information: A. Special Education Program

Dr. Williams captured feedback for the Special Education Department which will be shared back with the Board of Education at a later time. PBAC members will also be completing the same task.

Meeting called to order at 7:32 PM

5. Meeting Called to Order

Action, Procedural: A. Call to Order

Motion by David Francis, second by Amy West.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Amy West

Procedural: B. Account for Absences

6. Approval of Agenda

Action: A. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda, as presented.

Motion by Amy West, second by David Francis.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Amy West

7. Approval of Consensus Agenda Items

Action (Consent): A. MOTION for Approval of Consensus Agenda Items

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

Motion by David Francis, second by Amy West.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Amy West

Action (Consent), Minutes: B. Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

Motion by David Francis, second by Amy West.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Amy West

Action (Consent): C. Personnel Appointments

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

Motion by David Francis, second by Amy West.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Amy West

Action: D. CSE & CPSE Recommendations

8. Public Comment

Information: A. Public May Address the Board of Education

Students in support of AP Classes, were in attendance

Kevin Powell, Junior, spoke in representing 15+ students interested in taking Physics I & II.

Maryann Powell, shared her thoughts and concerns in the absence of the full Physics course, and the gap in learning it creates.

Karen DeWitt, with a son in Physics I, spoke about the year deficit for the junior class, and with the projected enrollment, students have united to show their interest and intent to commit to taking AP Physics II, and would like to move forward with 15 students. The parents would like to see something done to meet the desires of those interested.

Another student spoke about course offerings and some confusion with exams and the change in progression with regents and AP's. This will be difficult to fit both AP, unless there is a prerequisite of regents, meeting college requirements across the country. Overall, a solution is hoped for.

9. Board President's Remarks

10. Superintendent's Report

Discussion, Information: A. Announcements - Capital Project Update

Newly appointed Director of Facilities, Robert Fussa, introduced himself and shared his excitement about joining the HF-L team.

Superintendent Mancuso expressed appreciation to Cindy Gorley for her Interim role as the Director of Facilities, along with her role as Director of Technology.

Superintendent Mancuso shared highlights of recent areas of focus, including but not limited to:

- Despite the recent release announcement of reduced funding from Albany, HF-L remains in good financial standing. Neighboring schools will be making difficult announcements in the near future, which may spark some concern from the community, however, HF-L has been fiscally responsible and remains fiscally stable. Supt. Mancuso highlighted again, what Dr. Capron had reported earlier about the difference in capital funds versus operational funds. HF-L will be used as a guide to others as so many factors have been done well here at HF-L.
- Large numbers of students are competing in musical competitions in the near future, in a safe environment with an opportunity for good feedback
- With regard to data privacy issues, and Law 2-d, the state's regulations are lacking gravely. Data privacy guidelines are not being met outside the educational sector, and with vendors, which will likely have an impact until the data privacy pieces are sorted out.
- Inside HF-L's Winter newsletter will be slightly delayed due to the snow day last Friday.
- Mr. Larry Young will be resigning from the board as of this evening. He is absent this evening with the flu.
- Celebrating Dr. Renee Williams, who will be sharing a Ted Talk at the NYS Women in Administration conference at the Burgundy Basin Inn, in the near future.
- Reminder to reference capital project updates and ask questions.
- There were issues with extreme absence of both students and staff at the Lima Primary School, which forced a contemplation of closing the building for a period of time until this passed. However, there has been what appears to be great improvement, and possible closures are no longer pending.

Discussion, Information: B. Update on Proposed Action Items

11. Board of Education New Business - Action Items

Action: A. Health Services Contract - Rush-Henrietta CSD students attending Lima Christian School

Motion to approve the Health Services Contract - R-H students attending Lima Christian School, as presented.

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by Amy West.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Amy West

Action: B. Extra Class Audit and Corrective Action Plan

Audit Committee reviewed and this is very typical for extraclass activities, student treasurers and additional training will take place. Kudos to District in the action plan going forward. Educational opportunities for the students involved is still a great learning experience. Fair comments and response.

Motion to approve the Extra Class Audit and Corrective Action Plan, as presented.

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by David Francis.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Amy West

12. Board President's Update

13. Board of Education Discussion - Review Only Items

Discussion, Information: A. Health Services Contracts - Various School Districts attending Lima Christian School

No comments.

Discussion, Information: B. Updates on Board Committee Meetings

C. Bellavia - Went to see the Aristocats, not a committee meeting, but a District event. Excellent production.

Steering Committee - A. West attended, where co-chairs of all the school board committees report on all that has been happening in and around their districts. Position papers from the Legislative committee were reviewed. Executive Director of MCSBA, Sherry Johnson sits on the Chamber of Commerce and is very saavy, along with Bob Duffy and Superintendent Mancuso, in advocating for the educational sector. Former HF-L board member, Chuck Allan is also part of a cross-agency group who has been highlighted to coordinate support. Congressman, Joe Morelle is seen as a large supporter of education as well. All kinds of red-tape to access family needs.

Music Boosters Meeting - A. West attended. This group is still respectfully advocating to express passion for the music program and concerns about losing staff members.

Dues Committee Meeting - A. West attended a meeting about the fee structure of MCSBA membership. HF-L happens to fall into the low range of a higher scale in the old fee structure. Now, District's will be able to figure a percentage based on the budget. A certain percentage divided by 10. Therein comes a problem if a district drops out, then the fees get re-distributed. It was agreed that the committee is worth the fees. There was further discussion too, about the District not renewing membership to NYSSBA next year, due to the cost and the fact that HF-L is so well represented by our local agency, MCSBA.

Legislative Breakfast - G. Stottler was among attendees. Districts echoed the IDEA funding conversations, higher education act proposing some solutions, Marjorie Burns was at the table with Gary, and left with the talking points flier provided by Dr. Capron. She appears to be well-informed and covers a great territory. Joe Morrelle was in attendance again. Mark Johns spoke about the state budget shortfall and their ability to get tax revenue, and suggests that it will get worse. Harry Bronson attempted to minimize the current funding situation, which is believed to be largely due to the declining population of the state as a whole. D. Francis found that while it was a nice event, he was seated with those in the minority, so there would not be much traction on any issues discussed. These interactions are supposed to be beneficial in getting the message from Districts through to legislators. They suggested phone calls and emails to advocate further. The Superintendent echoed this, indicating that his drafted message to staff will recommend reaching out to state leaders. School board members in attendance were attempting to help legislators understand the issues that the educational sector are faced with, to the best of their ability.

Superintendent Mancuso reported that he recently tuned into some discussions downstate, and it is the same conversation as up here. Everyone will be below the rate of inflation and may result in districts pitting against one another. State laws imply many mandates that are not realistic. Some members, who have requested the top ten mandates, claims to not be able to get a hold of them. Wonders why... no one can get traction without knowing this. While these may have been put into place for good intentions initially, things have gotten out of hand. Regulations should possibly be the focus - specifically, about which ones can go...

ILC Meeting - A. West attended the most recent meeting and continues to be impressed with this group. They are currently examining the learning standards. Two teachers from Manor provided some examples, as they are leading the way. The collaboration is most impressive. Talked about Law 2-d and groups are examining lists in response to this. Q - How many vendors are compliant? A - Due to the recent changes in law, there is a need to revisit this.

District Safety Committee - Gary & Dave F. attended. Reviewed capital project timeline, discussed work around the April break. Work on the District Emergency Response Plan update with the assistance of Lynn Parrish. This will be reviewed at the same time as the Code of Conduct during a board meeting in May. Relocation of facilities building was a topic of conversation. There is a belief that everyone will be placed in the renovated transportation building by October 2020. There is some question about what lies underneath the building. It will be decided if the DEC needs to become involved or not. The parking lot may be further impacted depending on findings. Corona Virus was also a topic of discussion, along with the flu.

Tomorrow there is an Information Exchange Committee meeting scheduled. Dave F. will attend. Dr. Capron will be presenting a paper at the next Labor Relations Committee meeting on Feb. 26

14. Questions from the Audience Regarding Agenda Items

Discussion, Information: A. Questions from the Audience

No questions.

15. Board of Education - Additional Action Item

Action: A. Board Member Resignation

President Bellavia spoke about the three options for addressing this vacancy.

There was discussion about each option. The Board will need to respond and take action on their decision within 90-days of today, the date of Mr. Young's resignation. The superintendent and board president read portions from the privileged attorney advice document on this topic.

Motion to approve Board Member, Larry Young's resignation, as presented.

Motion by Amy West, second by David Francis.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Amy West

16. Adjournment

Action: A. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 9:22 pm

Motion by Joe Alati, second by Amy West.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Amy West

17. Next Board of Education Meeting Topics

Information: A. Next Board of Education Meeting Topics