

Finance/Budget Workshop Minutes
February 28, 2022
Old Nokomis 6:30 PM

Members Present: Robin McNeil, Corinna Caron, Ryan Parker, Mark Guzzi, Veronica Nicholson, Tonya Parker, Alyssa Worster

Members Absent: Susan Buck (excused)

Others Present: Mike Hammer, Joe Chadbourne, Dean Cray, Lori Merrow, Maxine Pare

I. **Public Comment** - None

II. **Monthly Financials**

February financials were reviewed. Revenue and expenditures are in line with the budget. Do not see any issues at this time. Food Service continues to be self-sufficient through February.

III. **Budget Review**

A. Transportation

Dean and Joe presented the proposed Transportation budget for 2023. As proposed, this budget has an increase of \$206,000. This budget includes adding a transportation aide position for special needs students. Wages and Health Insurance costs are up due to increased District contribution being negotiated with the Transportation Association. The new contract will be going to the Board for approval in March. We are proposing an increase in fuel cost for the upcoming year due to increase in fuel pricing. We are also proposing financing 3 new buses next year. These have been approved by the state and would help to modernize our fleet with more fuel efficient buses and reduce maintenance needs.

B. Improvement of Instruction

Lori and Joe presented the Improvement of Instruction budget. The proposed budget reflects an increase of \$4,000. Professional Credits continue to be the largest budget line. This line covers the cost of teachers and ed techs to take

college classes. Areas of increase in this budget were assessments (+\$3,000), professional development (+\$4,000) and software (+4,000) these were offset with savings in health insurance.

C. System Administration

System Administration has an increase of \$68,000 in the proposed budget. Close to \$56,000 of the increase came from the business office. In this budget, due to a retirement we are proposing redefining a position. Currently there is a half time Payables clerk in the business office and the other half is registrar which appears in the School Administration budget. We are proposing making this a full time business office position. The student registration piece will be picked up by the technology department and staff reporting currently done by technology will move to the business office. The position in the business office will do accounts payable and assist with payroll. Increases in health insurance relate to anticipated rate increases along with providing health insurance to the new employee; current employee in this position does not take district insurance. Superintendent's office is up roughly \$13,000 primarily due to wage and insurance increases.

D. Debt Service

Debt Service will decrease by approximately \$727,000 in the 2023 budget. This is primarily due to the SES and SVES schools being paid off. All but \$125,000 of this is state funded so will result in less debt service funding from the state. The \$125,000 will be a reduction in the local budget and will benefit all towns other than Etna and Dixmont because the debt predates those towns joining the RSU.

IV. **Review Revenue for 2022-2023 Budget**

A spreadsheet was shared showing the changes from the ED279 from what was used for the current budget versus the preliminary ED279 for the 2022-2023 school year. The comparison shows an increase of state funding of over \$900,000 for the 2022-2023 budget year compared to what was budgeted for state funding in the 2021-2022 budget.

V. **Other**

The March 15th Budget Committee meeting was moved to Monday, March 14th.

VI. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Chadbourne, Business Manager