

School District of La Farge
Budget Hearing
Date: September 16, 2019

The budget hearing for the La Farge School District was called to order by Curt Parr at 6:00 p.m.

Gustafson presented the preliminary budget for 2019/2020 school year.

The district is estimating a slight increase of three students for the 2019-2020 school year. Final enrollment numbers are not certified yet and the fall of 2019 property values are still being estimated. Enrollment and property values are two of the main factors in determining aid.

In summary, revenues will increase due to an addition in our base revenue of \$57,154. Expenses and revenues are fairly consistent with the past several years. For 2019-2020, there is an estimated decrease in overall expenses, but there is also a decrease in revenues, due to the closures of the CLC and DOJ grants.

Debt Services –

The district made the third payment on the office/secure entrance addition on 7/1/2019, leaving a balance of \$845,580. Additional debt includes \$86,131 on two school buses, and \$23,094 on a tractor used for mowing and snow removal.

Tax Levy-

The 2019-2020 property tax level will decrease by 1% from the prior year, reflecting a decrease of \$1.00 per \$1000 of property value. The levy rate is estimated at \$9.40 (down from \$10.40) per \$1000 of land value. This translates into a reduction of \$100 for every \$100,000 of land value from the current levy. The decrease in the levy is due to an increase in state aid.

The tax levy still has to be based on the district's equalized property value that is released in October, and on our September enrollment count. Changes on projected enrollment could increase or decrease the levy.

No citizen comments.

Parr requested a motion to adjourn the budget hearing. Motion and second by Wirts/Franks. Motion carried.

School District of La Farge
Annual Meeting
Date: September 16, 2019

The annual meeting was called to order by Curt Parr at 6:40 p.m.

Josh Hansen nominated Meaghan Gustafson as chairperson for the meeting. Chad Wirts seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Gustafson requested a motion to suspend the reading of the meeting notice. Motion and second by Parr/Shawn Donovan. Motion carried.

Gustafson requested a motion to suspend the reading of minutes of prior year annual meeting. Motion and second by Parr/Donovan. Motion carried.

Parr read a written statement by School Board President Aaron Nemec, who was not in attendance.

I feel that the school board's responsibility is not to run the school, but to make sure the school runs well. The Board's main focus is the mission, vision, and goals of the district: inspiring leadership, engaging hearts and minds, and

preparing for global citizenship. As you walk into our main entrance, you are greeted with our mission statement, #Every Student, Every Day - a daily reminder to the staff of why they are here, and a message to students that each and every one is deserving of a quality education.

I could not be more proud of our staff and students here at La Farge Schools, and look forward to an exciting year.

Gustafson provided a summary of some of the district's accomplishments since the 2018 Annual Meeting.

September 2018) La Farge Elementary students began working with volunteers from United Way's Read for Success program.

October 2018) With help from volunteers, La Farge Schools implemented a program to send home snacks and meals with students on weekends and over breaks.

December 2018) Ongoing work with school safety planning in accordance with DOJ safety grant

January 2019) District initiated playgroups for families with children birth - five.

February 2019) 4th graders participated in testing through the National Evaluation of Academic Progress initiative.

April 2019) 8th - 12th grade band went on trip to Disney World- participated in a workshop with a Disney composer.

May 2019) Site visit by Rural Education Research and Implementation Center from UW-Madison- has since blossomed into partnerships with UW- Platteville.

La Farge Schools accepted into the Trauma-Sensitive Schools Initiative.

Five students from Thailand participated in a cultural visit to La Farge and La Farge Schools.

June 2019) Administrative and teaching turnover

Teachers participated in professional development over the summer

July 2019) Received \$75,000 mental health services grant in consortium with Kickapoo

August 2019) Unveiled new ADA compliant website and mobile app

Gustafson closed the report by sharing the administration's confidence in the district's experienced and well-qualified staff. Also shared were some long-term concerns regarding the high cost of maintaining and repairing aging facilities.

Gustafson requested a motion to provide insurance for student accident coverage at the District's expense. Motion and second by Donovan/Barb Sarnowski. Motion carried.

Gustafson requested a motion to fix the salaries of School Board Members, presently at \$1100/year for each member. Donovan made a motion to amend the salaries to include a \$25 stipend per special meeting. Sarnowski seconded. Motion carried.

Gustafson requested a motion to provide transportation to pupils who reside in the district. Motion and second by Parr/Wirts. Motion carried.

Gustafson requested a motion to levy a school tax for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Motion and second by Sarnowski/Donovan. Motion carried.

Resolution A: Gustafson requested a motion authorizing the school board to borrow money on a short term basis. Motion and second by Wirts/Lonnie Muller. Motion carried.

Gustafson requested a motion to approve 1137 hours in the 2019-2020 school year. Motion and second by Sarnowski/Wirts. Motion carried.

Gustafson requested a motion to give the Board of Education authority to set the date and time for the 2020-2021 Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting. Motion and second by Donovan/Sarnowski. Motion carried.

Gustafson requested a motion to adjourn the 2019 Annual Meeting. Motion and second by Parr/Wirts. Motion carried.

Minutes written by Meaghan Gustafson, District Administrator

Minutes submitted by Shawn Sedgwick