

**Finance/Budget Committee Minutes**  
**March 10, 2020**  
**Superintendent's Office 6:30 PM**

**Members Present:** Bill MacDonald, Robin McNeil, Corinna Caron, Ryan Parker, Mark Guzzi, Don Mendell, Leland Youngberg

**Members Absent:** Charles Cossar (excused)

**Others Present:** Mike Hammer, Joe Chadbourne, Josh Grant, Liz Mares, Frannie Rogers, Maxine Pare, Suzanne Nowinski

I. **Public Comment - None**

II. **Budget Review**

A. Technology

Josh presented a budget reflecting an increase of \$22,000. \$7,000 was payroll related increases due to insurance cost and scheduled wage increases. The remaining \$15,000 increase is related to additional network licensing fees at the new middle/high school. Josh also explained that the upcoming year will be a “bridge” year for MLTI so the state will not be funding new devices. Josh noted the District’s spending on technology is in line with other districts in the state and he believes the funding is sufficient to achieve the District’s technology goals.

B. Special Education

Liz presented the Special Education budget. The proposed budget reflects an increase of \$339,000. Payroll related expenses made up \$216,000 of this increase. This is due to the request for two additional Ed Techs than budgeted this year. These two Ed Techs were added in the past couple of months to support students in the District. A request was made to move the Assistant Special Ed Director to fully District paid, currently about 15% of the cost are being paid through the local entitlement grant. Other payroll related increases surrounded contractual wage increases and projected health insurance rate increases. MaineCare seed expense was increased by \$20,000 in the 2021 budget reflecting 2020 expense levels per the ED279. Liz explained another \$100,000 of increases consisting of out-of-district placements (+\$73k), moving some assessments out of local

entitlement to local budget due to grant funding (+\$15k), increased OT/PT services (+\$5k) and additional needs for a translator and speech (+7k).

III. **Financials**

Joe distributed financials through February. Spending and revenue are in line with expectations for this point in the fiscal year. We are seeing some tightening in spending which is helping offset some expected overages. Food Service is becoming a concern area. Revenues are not meeting projections. Joe will work with Mr. Leighton to understand the reduced revenue and come up with a plan to keep spending in check for the remainder of the year.

IV. **Other**

A couple of questions from last week's meeting were answered. We reached out to the DOE for clarification of Special Ed Transportation expenses and which article they should be reflected in. The DOE explained that transportation for all students from their homes to their learning environment needed to be contained in the Transportation article. The Committee was also updated that the District is currently making payments on two vans used by transportation.

V. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Chadbourne, Business Manager