

Finance Committee Meeting. January 20, 2015

Present: Joe Phelan, Tom Burnell, Mark Fleischhauer, Diane Lyons, Deirdre Burns

1. Cafeteria update.

*lunch participation numbers are up at CLS and slightly down at BMS/RHS

*breakfast sales are up.

*the program is still operating at a loss but less than last year. Currently -33,238.64

* the new software was paid off in October.

*a new lunch menu for staff went out this week. Down the road this may be offered to RHS students.

*we are still using local farms although it is sometimes difficult to find certain products during the winter months.

*still working on pricing out meals this is difficult with RH/RBK using two different software programs.

*The ability for parents to pay online for lunch should be available in the next few months.

2. Technology plan update.

A second option or plan B was discussed. The RHS timetable would be moved up. All buildings would have devices/carts available at each grade level including special areas by 2016-2017. This plan does not include a 1/1 model in any building. The carts are currently all available for use at CLS, It was noted that this roll out took longer than expected. Steve will be meeting with the BMS staff in February to decide which device would work best. This plan allows more students to have access to a device while giving Steve and the staff time to evaluate usage and effectiveness. Some scheduling issues need to be worked out with the cart usage (teachers that work on the same subject at the same time). The cost of this plan may change depending on which devices are ultimately decided on is 1,005,712. The administration is still investigating options and not making a recommendation at this time

3. 2014-15 budget update

Tax levy cap numbers are still be adjusted but looks like it will be around 2.17% which is up slightly from last year due to growth in our community.

Two aid positions will be reduced next year but we will need to add one ELL teacher as required by the state. There is also a request for an additional teacher at CLS. It is not expected that we will be adding anything from the "wish list" this year.

4. Staffing and enrollment projections

The overall enrollment numbers for next year show little change but BMS will see about 30 fewer students than this year. The administration will look closely at these numbers before making any recommendations on adding a teacher at CLS. It may be necessary to start looking at these numbers to create a plan going forward for BMS/RHS as lower enrollment numbers come into these buildings.

5. Multi- Year Fund Balance projections

* It was decided last year to have a slimmer margin between budget and revenues. Therefore we are creating less fund balance. Tom showed us a muliti year projection chart that shows the district could potentially go from having a 4% fund balance to a 2.35% in as short as four years. In order to keep our fund balance at about 4% we must lower our expenses. The effect

of budgeting so tightly does not leave much room for unexpected expenses such as we saw this year with special Ed.

6. Tom will put together a list of budget considerations that board members can discuss with our law makers when we meet with them.

4. Next meetings: February 17 at noon

Submitted by Diane Lyons