

# Rhinebeck Central School District

## 2015-16 Budget Development Process

4.2

	2014-15 Budgets	2015-16 Budgets	Difference	Percent
Rollover Budget	30,851,358	31,882,028	1,030,670	3.34%
1st Draft Budget 1/6/14	30,851,358	32,345,054	1,493,696	4.84%

### Additions to the 1st Draft Budget at 2/10/15 BOE Meeting

Account Name	Account Code	Prior Draft Budget	Current Budget	Difference	Percent	Proposed Changes
BOCES SERVICES	A2070490	113,000	117,000	4,000	3.54%	4,000
TEACHER SAL-GRADE 7/8-MS	A211013030	1,467,500	1,472,000	4,500	0.31%	4,500
HEALTH INSURANCE	A9060800	4,710,000	4,815,000	105,000	2.23%	105,000
						<u>113,500</u>

### Deletions to the 1st Draft Budget at 2/10/15 BOE Meeting

Account Name	Account Code	Prior Draft Budget	Current Budget	Difference	Percent	Proposed Changes
TEACHER SAL-GRADE 4&5-ELEM.	A21101202005	1,140,000	1,090,000	-\$50,000	-4.39%	-50,000
TEACHER SAL-GRADE 6-MS	A21101203000	710,000	653,000	-\$57,000	-8.03%	-57,000
TEACHER SAL-GRADE 9-12-HS	A21101310	2,655,500	2,500,000	-\$155,500	-5.86%	-155,500
TEACHER SALARIES-ELEM	A261015020	82,600	66,500	-\$16,100	-19.49%	-16,100
NYS TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM	A9020800	1,750,000	1,687,000	-\$63,000	-3.60%	-63,000
SOCIAL SECURITY	A9030800	1,250,000	1,234,000	-\$16,000	-1.28%	-16,000
						<u>-357,600</u>

Total Proposed Changes to the Budget	-244,100
2015-16 Current Proposed 2nd Draft Budget	32,100,954
2015-16 Current Proposed Budget Percentage Increase	4.05%
2015-16 Current Proposed Tax Levy Increase	4.90%
Maximum Allowable Tax Levy Limit	26,536,714
Maximum Allowable Tax Levy Limit Percentage	2.18%
Amount Below the Tax Levy Limit	708,770

April 14, 2015

# Rhinebeck Central School District

## 2015-16 Budget Development Process

### Deletions to the 2nd Draft Budget at 2/24/15 BOE Meeting

Account Name	Account Code	Prior Draft			Difference	Percent	Proposed Changes
		Budget	Current Budget				
TEACHER SAL-GRADE 4&5-ELEM.	A21101202005	1,090,000	1,070,000	-20,000	-1.83%	-20,000	
HEALTH INSURANCE	A9060800	4,815,000	4,733,000	-82,000	-1.70%	-82,000	
WORKERS COMP INSURANCE	A9040800	205,000	197,500	-7,500	-3.66%	-7,500	
						<u>-109,500</u>	
Total Proposed Changes to the Budget							-109,500
2015-16 Current Proposed 3rd Draft Budget							31,991,454
2015-16 Current Proposed Budget Percentage Increase							3.70%
2015-16 Current Proposed Tax Levy Increase							4.48%
Maximum Allowable Tax Levy Limit							26,536,714
Maximum Allowable Tax Levy Limit Percentage							2.18%
Amount Required to Reach Tax Levy Limit							599,270

### Additions to the 3rd Draft Budget at 3/21/15 BOE Budget Workshop

Account Name	Account Code	Prior Draft			Difference	Percent	Proposed Changes
		Budget	Current Budget				
BOCES SERVICES	A1620490	55,000	74,000	19,000	34.55%	19,000	
TEACHER AIDES SALARY	A2110160	595,000	605,000	10,000	1.68%	10,000	
BOCES SERVICES	A2250490	700,000	730,000	30,000	4.29%	30,000	
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE - COMPUTER	A2630467	5,000	20,000	15,000	300.00%	15,000	
BOCES SERVICES	A2630490	300,000	310,000	10,000	3.33%	10,000	
NYS EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYS	A9010800	550,000	551,250	1,250	0.23%	1,250	
SOCIAL SECURITY	A9030800	1,234,000	1,234,750	750	0.06%	750	
						<u>86,000</u>	

# Rhinebeck Central School District

## 2015-16 Budget Development Process

### Deletions to the 3rd Draft Budget at 3/21/15 BOE Budget Workshop

BOCES SERVICES	A1670490	29,000	27,000	-2,000	-6.90%	-2,000
SALARIES - NON-INSTRUCTIONAL	A1680160	167,440	132,440	-35,000	-20.90%	-35,000
ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES - BOCES	A1981490	159,000	151,000	-8,000	-5.03%	-8,000
BOCES SERVICES	A2010490	27,500	22,500	-5,000	-18.18%	-5,000
TRAVEL & CONFERENCE - HS	A202047510	1,000	0	-1,000	-100.00%	-1,000
OTHER EXPENSES - HS	A202047910	5,500	4,500	-1,000	-18.18%	-1,000
GENERAL SUPPLIES - HS	A202050110	4,750	2,750	-2,000	-42.11%	-2,000
TRAVEL & CONFERENCE - HS	A207047510	5,000	2,000	-3,000	-60.00%	-3,000
TEACHER SAL - CREDIT RECOVERY	A2110132	10,000	8,000	-2,000	-20.00%	-2,000
TEXTBOOKS - HS ENGLISH	A211048015	11,900	8,900	-3,000	-25.21%	-3,000
BOCES SERVICES	A2110490	150,000	135,000	-15,000	-10.00%	-15,000
SOFTWARE SUPPLIES - LIBRARY	A2610522	19,800	1,000	-18,800	-94.95%	-18,800
TEACHER SAL - COACHES	A2855150	172,500	167,500	-5,000	-2.90%	-5,000
BOCES SERVICES	A2855490	53,500	42,000	-11,500	-21.50%	-11,500
TRANSPORTATION - RESIDENTIAL	A554047960	760,000	715,000	-45,000	-5.92%	-45,000
NYS TEACHER RETIREMENT SYS	A9020800	1,687,000	1,657,000	-30,000	-1.78%	-30,000
HEALTH INSURANCE	A9060800	4,733,000	4,702,000	-31,000	-0.65%	-31,000
				-31,000		-31,000
						-218,300

Total Proposed Changes to the Budget	-132,300
2015-16 Current Proposed 4th Draft Budget	31,859,154
2015-16 Current Proposed Budget Percentage Increase	3.27%
2015-16 Current Proposed Tax Levy Increase	3.32%
Maximum Allowable Tax Levy Limit	26,534,234
Maximum Allowable Tax Levy Limit Percentage	2.16%
Amount Above Tax Levy Limit	299,450

# Rhinebeck Central School District

## 2015-16 Budget Development Process

### Additions to the Revenue Budget at 4/14/15 BOE Meeting

Account Name	Account Code	Prior Draft Budget	Current Budget	Difference	Percent	Proposed Changes
BASIC FORMULA	A3101A	2,548,593	2,658,520	109,927	4.31%	109,927
EXCESS COST AID	A3101B	296,613	306,948	10,335	3.48%	10,335
TEXTBOOK AID	A3260	91,632	93,646	2,014	2.20%	2,014
				<u>122,276</u>		<u>122,276</u>

### Deletions to the Revenue Budget at 4/14/15 BOE Meeting

Account Name	Account Code	Prior Draft Budget	Current Budget	Difference	Percent	Proposed Changes
BOCES AID	A3103	367,745	364,430	-3,315	-0.90%	<u>-3,315</u>
						<u>-3,315</u>

### Additions to the 5th Draft Budget at 4/14/15 BOE Meeting

Account Name	Account Code	Prior Draft Budget	Current Budget	Difference	Percent	Proposed Changes
TEACHER SAL-GRADE 4&5-ELEM.	A21101202005	1,070,000	1,096,240	26,240	2.45%	26,240
GEN SUPPL-ELEM	A211050120	37,000	40,000	3,000	8.11%	3,000
SALARIES - CO-CURRICULAR	A2850150	75,000	82,000	7,000	9.33%	7,000
NYS TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM	A9020800	1,657,000	1,662,460	5,460	0.33%	5,460
SOCIAL SECURITY	A9030800	1,234,750	1,237,161	2,411	0.20%	2,411
				<u>44,111</u>		<u>44,111</u>

### Deletions to the 5th Draft Budget at 4/14/15 BOE Meeting

Account Name	Account Code	Prior Budget	Current Budget	Difference	Percent	Proposed Changes
TELEPHONE-ALL DISTRICT	A1620478	14,600	12,000	-2,600	-17.81%	-2,600
BOCES SERVICES	A2070490	117,000	109,500	-7,500	-6.41%	-7,500
FULL DAY KINDEGARTEN	A2110120	320,600	254,700	-65,900	-20.56%	-65,900
TEACHER SAL-GRADE 6-MS	A21101203000	653,000	629,725	-23,275	-3.56%	-23,275
TEACHER SAL-GRADE 7/8-MS	A211013030	1,472,000	1,421,950	-50,050	-3.40%	-50,050

April 14, 2015

# Rhinebeck Central School District

## 2015-16 Budget Development Process

BOCES SVC-COMPUTERS	A2630490	310,000	296,500	-13,500	-4.35%	-13,500
TEACHER SAL-COACHES, ETC.	A2855150	167,500	165,200	-2,300	-1.37%	-2,300
NYS TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM	A9020800	1,662,460	1,642,985	-19,475	-1.17%	-19,475
SOCIAL SECURITY	A9030800	1,237,161	1,226,116	-11,045	-0.89%	-11,045
HEALTH INSURANCE	A9060800	4,702,000	4,676,205	-25,795	-0.55%	-25,795
UNION WELFARE BENEFITS	A9070800	310,000	306,840	-3,160	-1.02%	-3,160
						-224,600

Total Proposed Changes to the Budget      -180,489

2015-16 Current Proposed 5th Draft Budget      31,678,665

2015-16 Current Proposed Budget Percentage Increase      2.68%

2015-16 Current Proposed Tax Levy Increase      2.17%

Maximum Allowable Tax Levy Limit      26,534,234

Maximum Allowable Tax Levy Limit Percentage      2.17%

Amount Below Tax Levy Limit      \$0

**Board of Cooperative Educational Services  
of the Sole Supervisory District of the  
County of Dutchess**

**BALLOT – BOARD OF ELECTION 2015**

There are **three** vacancies on the Board of Cooperative Educational Services to be filled at the annual election to be held on April 21, 2015. The Trustees or Board of Education of each component school district, by resolution, may cast **one vote for each vacancy** to be filled **and only one vote for each candidate**. **A maximum of three (3) votes may be cast in this election**. No more than one person residing in a particular component school district may be elected to serve on the Board of Cooperative Educational Services at one time, except as provided in Education Law § 1950 (2-a).

The District Clerk, or other officer authorized to certify that a board resolution has been adopted, shall complete the ballot by placing an “X” next to the name of the candidate for whom a vote has been cast, and by completing the certification below. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order, with their school district of residence and home address:

<p><b>Dale Culver</b></p> <p>District of Residence: Webutuck</p> <p>Home Address: PO Box 71 Amenia, NY 12501</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<p><b>Edward McCormick</b></p> <p>District of Residence: Arlington</p> <p>Home Address: 106 King Drive Poughkeepsie, NY 12603</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<p><b>Robert Rubin</b></p> <p>District of Residence: Wappingers</p> <p>Home Address: 1 Drum Court Poughkeepsie, NY 12603</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**CERTIFICATION**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, District Clerk of the \_\_\_\_\_ School District, do hereby certify that at a public meeting held on April 21, 2015, the Board of Education of the \_\_\_\_\_ School District adopted a resolution casting its vote(s) in the annual election of members of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services for the person(s) indicated on the above ballot.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

4.3

**Board of Cooperative Educational Services  
of the Sole Supervisory District of the  
County of Dutchess**

**BALLOT**

**VOTE ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET  
2015-2016**

The Trustees or Board of Education of each component school district, by resolution, may cast one vote to approve or disapprove the Board of Cooperative Educational Services Administrative Budget in the amount of \$4,317,593. The District Clerk, or other officer authorized to certify that a board resolution has been adopted, shall complete the ballot by placing an "X" next to the approval or disapproval indicating how the vote has been cast, and by completing the certification below.

**APPROVE**      BOCES Administrative Budget     

**DISAPPROVE**      BOCES Administrative Budget     

**CERTIFICATION**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, District Clerk of the \_\_\_\_\_ School District,  
do hereby certify that at a public meeting held on April 21, 2015, the Board of Education of the  
\_\_\_\_\_ School District adopted a resolution casting its vote on the Board of Cooperative Educational  
Services Administrative Budget indicated on the ballot above.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Audit Committee Meeting  
Minutes March 25, 2015

Present: Rick Walker, Laura Schulkind, Deirdre Burns, Paul Slayton

1. Paul Slayton joined the committee as the volunteer community member.
  - a. Introductions were made, Paul shared his background with the committee and the members updated Paul on the recent history and agenda of the committee. Paul previously served as a BOE member and as a member of the Audit Committee and has completed classwork towards certification as a School District Business Leader. Paul raised an important question about liability as a volunteer. The committee needs to follow up with Tom and David Shaw about this. Laura will send Paul relevant documents - committee's mission statement and recent audits. The committee welcomes Paul and is grateful that he is once again volunteering his time to the school district.

Tom Burnell and Donna Crowley joined the meeting.

2. Internal auditing.
  - a. Donna Crowley, from Vanacore, the accounting firm that has acted as our internal auditor, joined us to discuss options for working with the business office to improve operations. Possible areas for focus were discussed. Donna's process is to test systems from beginning to end, interview staff as necessary and issue a report on findings. The committee communicated that we also would like her to make recommendations for improvements and assist in instituting best practices, should issues be identified.
  - b. Areas of focus will include random testing to: verify paycheck amounts agree with approved salary, check that all appropriate personnel forms and documents are filed, ensure appropriate records management and retention. The committee agreed that checking payroll processes and records management are valuable areas to look at.
  - c. In this discussion the committee learned of some of the practices of the business office: Tom looks at every payroll check every pay period to verify accuracy; each staff member gets a salary agreement every year, which acts as an acknowledgement of their salary for the year; coaching salaries are paid 2x/season, co-curricular salaries are paid out 3x/year, pay for summer work is held until there is BOE approval.
  - d. Donna's rough estimate of the work is \$6300. She will send to the committee an "arrangement letter," which will specify the parameters of the work, the charges and will include a timeline. The estimate fits into what has been budgeted for internal auditing. Tom and Donna will discuss which weeks are best to do the testing, which may commence in April.

(Donna Crowley left the meeting at 1:30 pm)



3. Claims Auditor.

- a. Steve Bangert, the District's Claims Auditor, joined the meeting. Steve provided an overview of his experience (a former assistant business official at another district and as a loan officer for a bank) and his work at the district since February 1, 2013. He reviews all payments to vendors for goods and services (this does not include payroll). The batch of payments he reviews ("warrants") must have been authorized and must reconcile with the purchase orders (which is essentially a promise to pay), invoices/bills and checks. This work typically takes 2-3 hours every 3 weeks or so, although there are usually more payments to review at the beginning of the school year. Steve commended the district on having good practices and doing a "very good job," particularly noting the good work done by Sue McCormack, the business office's accounts payable clerk.
- b. Steve requested an opportunity to share observations he has made outside the purview of claims auditing, which the committee was open to:
  1. Steve looked at the external audit from the fall and, in his opinion, Tom has done a "masterful job" with the district's budget, noting the challenges of a tax cap.
  2. He noted the cafeteria program losses, a problem common to many districts, and suggested it is pragmatic to appropriate money from the general fund to the food service program, noting his opinion that it is unrealistic to think the food service program can be self-sustaining.
  3. With regard to glitches in the work of of an outside contractor for technology work last summer and fall, Steve would recommend using a consultant for projects of this size to supervise the work - a "clerk of the works." Service contracts should have more details than a purchase order. Paul characterized this as protecting the district from "performance risk."
- c. The committee expressed gratitude to Steve for his work and his valuable insights. Steve expressed that it is a pleasure to work in the district.

Next meeting: April 14, 2015 at 1:30 pm.

Submitted by Deirdre Burns

4.4.2

## Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes March 24, 2015

Members Present: Deirdre d'Albertis, Laura Schulkind, Rick Walker, Marvin Kreps, Joe Phelan  
Invited Guest: Steve Jensen

### Technology Plan C

Steve Jensen was asked to join the meeting to discuss the proposed changes for the BMS Technology courses. Initial meetings with the teachers, Marvin and Steve have been positive, but this represents a change to the original plan for technology infusion in all K-12 classrooms. For the near term, we acknowledge the diversity of tech skills in the students coming up from the Elementary School and the needs of the teachers in supplementing coursework with the use of technology. At this point, we need to level the disparity in knowledge through lab-type courses so that the core teachers are able to use technology without slowing down to teach *how* to use technology. Discussions are happening both in the Middle School and High School about how to bring younger students up to speed and ultimately what will be required once students reach the High School level.

Not only are Marvin and Steve recommending coursework in Digital Safety and Citizenry and Keyboarding but would like to include coursework from Microsoft's IT Academy and possibly a Coding/Gaming unit. The IT Academy is self-paced and will allow for both an online and blended learning format. The 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade students could never complete all that is offered by the Academy, but at minimum, benchmarks will be established for end-of-year goals for each grade level. This also offers the opportunity for highly motivated students to move beyond the annual benchmarks.

In order to provide collaborative learning, the current lab configuration doesn't work with its single learner/isolation design. Steve outlined potential workspace layouts that would create modular spaces that could easily be reconfigured for any particular class.

The group had thoughtful discussions around vertical articulation of the potential course offerings. Marvin is mindful that we include programs that support the larger curriculum and not fall into the trap of choosing strands that are "current" or "cool." If the 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> core teachers don't incorporate the skills being taught in the lab, then our students will not have gained in their digital literacy. He feels strongly that the value of these courses should be proven. If they don't enhance the body of knowledge that students need, they should not be included. Our Administrative Intern, Molly Albrecht is working on polling the Middle and High School teachers about what the staff needs to deliver instruction.

However, in our current budget situation, there is no extra money for this plan. Marvin and Steve are hoping to pull together a grant application for RSF by the end of April. If it is approved, the final curriculum and professional development will be framed in May, and the summer would be spent with Sheldon's team and BOCES reconfiguring the space, equipment purchases and PD/curriculum work. It is an ambitious timeframe but Marvin is hopeful that we could have this plan in place for September.

### Long form text vs. E-reading

Deirdre has been sharing articles with the committee about the efficacy of e-reading and anecdotal evidence of its shortcomings in her classrooms. There are certainly subjects that lend themselves to this platform but students seem to suffer in their ability to think critically when reading solely online. Marvin and Steve both agree that critical thinking is the key to student success and that we are not in the business of innovation for innovation's sake. We will employ technology where it supports our teachers and enhances their teaching and student learning.

### Scarsdale Center for Innovation

Marvin and Steve visited the Scarsdale Center for Innovation in mid-March. Marvin spoke of the many similarities between the Scarsdale and Rhinebeck School Districts both operationally and in student outcomes. Both districts have achieved such success, the obvious question became, "After having done so well, why change what's working?" Scarsdale's Superintendent charged the Curriculum and Technology Directors to "re-write the

narrative” around public education. Accordingly, leading education researchers were brought to Scarsdale to speak to the future of education with students, faculty and the Board of Education.

The Scarsdale Teacher Collaborative grew out of these discussions and created a space for teachers to collect ideas and provide a forum for collaboration. Essentially, the district has given their teachers permission to innovate where previously they felt inhibited by the structure of school culture. Teachers have the full support of the Board of Ed who charged the staff to take risks. By granting this permission to be innovative, the Teacher Collaborative has made progress in “changing the conversation” in Scarsdale.

Excerpted from the Scarsdale Public Schools Website:

Scarsdale teachers have designed and implemented many innovative projects in recent years, but the district does not have a formal way to encourage and showcase innovative instructional projects. In addition, the District has been hosting conversations about system-wide innovation, asking questions like:

- What will schools look like in the future?
- What kinds of spaces do we need to support instruction and collaborative work in 5-10 years?
- How will technology transform curriculum, instruction, and assessment?

This Center would showcase the work of teachers who are interested in using leading edge technology to improve instructional practices and reimagine teaching and learning.

The purpose of the Center is:

- to re-imagine teaching and learning, develop new models of instruction, and explore the role of technology in transforming instruction
- to foster widespread change, beyond a single classroom or teacher
- to learn how other organizations foster innovative practices and possibly replicate their techniques and structures in Scarsdale

The 2012-13 projects funded through the school district and Scarsdale’s education foundation included the creation of Maker Spaces, Learning Spaces, Service Learning and Global Awareness:

<http://www.scarsdaleschools.k12.ny.us/Page/12918>

The 2014-15 projects were “designed to develop curriculum, instructional strategies, and authentic assessments... under the umbrella of STEM/STEAM:

<http://www.scarsdaleschools.k12.ny.us/Page/18906>

Marvin was most taken by how they were able to “seed” innovation and wondered about leveraging our in-house expertise to promote this model of “exposure to ideas.” The Committee referenced the work being done with the Extended Response grant and is hopeful that these types of programs will continue to foster and promote innovation in Rhinebeck.

**Budget Considerations**

Beyond the needs for the BMS computer lab, the committee was assured that summer curriculum work was appropriately funded in our current draft budget. Most of our monies will be spent with the HS English Department and the BMS/RHS Social Studies departments.

The Next Generation Science Standards are on a 5 year development plan from the State, and we do not anticipate seeing any change recommendations until Fall of 2015 at the earliest.

**April 28 Agenda**

CLS Curriculum update  
Tech Plan C update

Submitted by: Laura Schulkind

## Finance Committee Meeting

April 7, 2015

Present: Tom Burnell, Joe Phelan, Diane Lyons, Deirdre Burns, Mark Fleischauer  
(Regrettably, ten minutes into the meeting, Mark was called back to work and departed)

### State Aid

- Joe reported that all of our state legislators (Cahill, Barrett and Serino) provided us with state aid runs.
- Total aid increased by \$120,000 from last year. Most of this is Gap Elimination Adjustment restoration. In some areas, we received less money than last year and in others a slight increase, including Foundation Aid. Tom noted that it is important to analyze in what areas aid is changing in an attempt to understand how and why the State is distributing monies. In response to a question from Deirdre, Tom and Joe reported that as of the meeting they had not received any information on policy rationales or the process behind aid distribution. GEA restoration monies were not distributed evenly across all Dutchess County districts suggesting that a formula that uses combined wealth ratio may have been used.
- Tom has calculated Excess Cost Aid (i.e., special ed monies) more precisely than that which is included in the state aid runs. Due to the increases this year in special ed costs, Tom anticipates that that number will be greater.

### 2015-16 Budget

- Given state aid, our budget is \$180,489 above the tax levy limit.
- Joe and Tom's proposal, at this time, is to make the Tier 1 cuts (\$224,600). The bulk of the Tier 1 cuts are from removing a CLS K position and a .4 ELA AIS position at BMS, along with a few other items. Removing these items from the budget will bring the budget under the tax levy limit. The remaining dollars (\$44,111) will be repurposed to increase the CLS STEM lab position while keeping an AIS position at CLS that is currently the purview of the part time STEM teacher. As well, there will be just over \$8,000 for RHS after school clubs.
- Diane noted that the reduction in the AUSSIE program in the Tier 1 cuts, while it makes sense programmatically, removes those monies from the PD budget more generally.
- Joe alerted the committee that should K registration increase such that another classroom teacher is advisable, we would look to our Tier 2 cuts, none of which implicate personnel.
- Joe noted that, since spring break was last week, he has not had an opportunity to review his current thinking with his administrative team.
- Joe pointed out that the current spending plan (i.e., the budget) does not include using more fund balance. Prudent use of the fund balance is essential. We want to be sure to reduce our reliance on fund balance while being sure not to develop a spending plan that is so close to revenues that responding to unexpected expenses, such as with special ed cost increases this year, becomes problematic.
- Marvin and Steve have been in discussions with RSF regarding applying for a grant to improve the BMS computer lab and to support curriculum and professional development work for BMS technology teachers.

- Deirdre suggested we monitor carefully increasing technology costs through multiple labs and new equipment while the enrollment is decreasing. Joe noted the critical importance of a robust technology curriculum for all students.
- Our "Plan C" Technology Plan moves us forward even as we have scaled back the original plan.
- The committee supports Joe and Tom's approach to bringing the budget in line with tax levy cap limitations.

Submitted by Deirdre Burns

4.4.4

## FACILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES - APRIL 8, 2015

Attendance: Deirdre d'Albertis, Mark Fleischhauer, Lisa Rosenthal, Sheldon Tieder, Tom Burnell, Joe Phelan.

Members of the committee briefly discussed a Facebook petition to discontinue the use of Styrofoam products in RCSD's cafeterias. Ed Davenport and Larry Anthony have been in conversation with the high school student who has taken on the cause; Joe Phelan alluded to the various costs associated with moving either to washable dishes/cutlery or to trays/plates made of a more environmentally friendly material.

Tom reported on his recent consultation with Mr. Chuck Bastian of Bernard Donegan and Associates, a financial consultant for capital projects whom we have used consistently for prior projects. Tom presented to this group a "proposed capital project timeline" (see attached) prepared by Mr. Bastian for a hypothetical May 2016 Voter Referendum. Tom stressed that this is a hypothetical timeline; May of next year would most likely be too early to go to voters. Tom walked the committee through the process, explaining in detail what each stage entails in terms of securing an architect, determining costs, liaising with SED, etc.

Tom also shared data on the projected net local share of debt service for a \$5 million Capital Project. He explained how important it is to estimate accurately the amount of building aid any district can expect from the State with such projects; he shared a few examples of local districts that ran into trouble in this regard. He also pointed out that technology projects are distinct from the kind of costs for which SED must provide oversight (healthy and safety regulations being myriad with renovation and expansion projects). In fact, technology projects are booming at the moment; once Smart Bond details are made available (perhaps in late April) this trend is bound to continue. The curriculum committee should be involved in developing any capital project plan: do we need to revise or extend any educational spaces to support the curriculum?

When a plan comes together, there will be substantial need for communication with our community. How will debt servicing impact the budget and local taxes? Joe's sense is that the ideal time to go out for such a referendum is in late fall (October or November). Prior to any vote, a community group would need to be organized to gain valuable input on any proposed plan. The earliest he could imagine scheduling a vote is fall of 2016. Unless interest rates change dramatically, both he and Tom see this as a viable timeline.

The immediate priority is to complete the Building Conditions Survey this summer. An RFP will be put out and a firm will be selected soon. After completion of the BCS, drafting of a proposal should follow in fall 2015. The next Facilities Committee meeting is scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deirdre d'Albertis

4.4.5

RHINEBECK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT/POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of April 9, 2015

Present: Diane Lyons, Mark Fleischhauer, Lisa Rosenthal, Joe Phelan

Policy No. 4730: Homework – Joe is still discussing the revision of this policy with the administrators. Among the issues being discussed are the following: (i) acknowledgment in the policy of the need for teachers to provide focused, quality feedback to students; and (ii) having the policy possibly address non-cognitive factors, independent learning, and practice of skills outside of the classroom. Joe will continue this discussion and report back to the Committee at its next meeting.

Potential Policy Regarding Religious Exemptions from Vaccination Requirements: Joe has not yet been able to speak with the district's attorneys, but he will make efforts to do so and report back to the Committee at its next meeting. The Committee briefly discussed legislative efforts in California and elsewhere to eliminate or narrow the scope of religious and moral objections, none of which are currently under serious discussion in New York.

Continued Review of Policies:

(1) Policy No. 5100, "Comprehensive Student Attendance": It appears that CLS does still award certificates for perfect attendance, but no longer publishes the names of the recipients in the weekly newsletter. At BMS, the administrators no longer enforce detentions for tardiness because the amount of work involved in doing so would require a full-time staffer to perform it, which is not possible at current staffing levels. Teachers at BMS and RHS report attendance per period, while CLS teachers report in the morning only. If a child at BMS or RHS is absent from class but the absence has not been reported in advance by a parent or guardian, there is a process for determining whether the student is on campus and, if he/she is not, to notify the parent or guardian. The Committee requested that Joe remove references to "open campus" because RHS does not have an open campus. The Committee also asked Joe to reword the reference to teachers being given a copy of this policy when they are hired so that the reference states that teachers are given access to the policy electronically.

(2) Policy No. 5120, "School Census": The Committee discussed the fact that this seems to be an outmoded carryover from years ago that the district does not perform. The Committee asked Joe to communicate with the district's lawyers regarding whether this policy is still required and, if it is, what the district should do to comply.

(3) Policy No. 5150, "Screening of New School Entrants": No action needed.

(4) Policy No. 5151, "Homeless Children and Youth": No action needed.

(5) Policy No. 5152, "Residency and Admission of Non-Resident Students": No action needed.

(6) Policy No. 5152.1, "Admission of Foreign Students": No action needed.

**Proposed Agenda for Next Regular Meeting (May 14, 2015):**

Continued review of district policies, starting from Policy No. 5154, "Assignment of Students to Classes." Follow up on previously discussed items.

Dated: April 10, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Rosenthal