

Finance Committee Meeting
Minutes.

March 17, 2015

Present: Joe Phelan, Tom Burnell, Diane Lyons, Mark Fleischhauer
Guest Steve Jenkins

Budget

Our 4th draft budget leaves the district \$267,970 short of the tax levy limit. In the start of the budget process we had a shortfall amount of about \$800,000. State aid is the last remaining piece.

Tom was able to take about \$163,000 out of the budget from several areas.

- The DEHIC rates were slightly lower than projected
- There will be a savings from 1 bus run by optimizing our busses.
- We originally budgeted for an infrastructure manager but Mr. Jensen now feels that an additional computer technician will work best.
- Savings in the athletic budget of about \$15,000 due to programs that no longer run or coaching positions we no longer need. (crew, cheerleading, Modified field hockey)
- There is an increase in the revenue side of about (\$170,000) in additional excess aid. This number will be final in July but is very close.

Cut List

The committee had the first look at the rough draft of the cut list. Changes will continue to be made before Saturday's workshop. The list will be sent to board members ahead of the workshop. One item that the committee discussed was a reduction to a section of 6th grade ELA due to declining enrollment. As discussed in previous minutes the lower class sizes are reaching the middle school. The committee discussed this as a possibility regardless of the final budget outcome.

Technology plan "C"

This plan financially is about the same cost as plan B. The specific equipment for BMS is now calculated. They would purchase MacBook Pro laptop carts. There is also a plan to upgrade the current computer lab class with 21.5 inch screen MacBook Pro desktops. This would mean restructuring the current computer courses offered in the middle school by September. It would also mean that the board would need to consider approving a lease purchase agreement with BOCES as soon as possible and prior to the budget vote to get the devices here by late summer. The lease process through BOCES takes several months. If the money came from another source a direct purchase could speed up the process. There is concern on the committee of the ability for all the pieces to come together by September. The committee will have the opportunity to discuss this with Marvin and Steve on Saturday. A question was asked about using Chrome books. Joe reported that Superintendents in Westchester that used the chrome books in their schools were

unhappy with their durability in the school setting and the lack of support with these devices. Money for the interactive projectors was taken out of the plan. It is Tom's hope that some of the smart money we should be receiving can be used for this purchase.

Next Meeting: April 14, 2015

Submitted by Diane Lyons