

Strategic Planning Committee

1/14/2021

Minutes

Attending via Zoom: Tom Burnell, Albert Cousins, Mark Fleischhauer, Christine Natoli, Jaclyn Savolainen, Diane Lyons

Tax Levy Cap 2021-2022 initial Budget Preparation

Discussions: Tom reported that another important number has been finalized for budget season. The CPI is set at 1.23%. The tax growth factor 1.36% was set a few weeks ago. Last year the CPI was 1.81% and the tax growth factor was 1.10%.

Revenue - As of this month we are showing losses under non-resident tuition, STAR reimbursement and state aid, current state aid loss is at 12 ½ % not the 20% originally thought. We have revenue increases due to the DEHIC holiday, refund of prior year expenses BOCES, and a Medicare reimbursement check we did not anticipate.

Expenses - We currently show savings in fuel, electric, supplies, maintenance, the director of curriculum position that remains open, classroom expenditures and transportation. We are overbudget in guidance, substitutes, attorney fees, and health services.

Curriculum work vs professional development: We must be clearer in distinguishing these expenses going forward due to ESSA reporting requirements that put an emphasis on professional development by building. The rates of pay for the work are the same, but the work being completed needs to be budgeted and expensed differently. Curriculum work results in a product that the district owns and professional development is training or teacher planning.

Decisions: The committee would like to the greatest extent possible to identify all COVID-19 related expenditures.

Review of Fund Balance projection and reserves

Discussions: Tom reviewed our current fund balance and reserve accounts

If we have remaining funds, we should consider adding to existing reserves like the Unemployment, ERS and TRS Reserves and to possible place a proposal on the 2021-22 school budget and trustee election to create a Capital Reserve Fund for future use.

Decisions: The board should consider creating a capital reserve fund. This is a reserve many schools have and would be used to fund future capital projects, but requires a vote of the community to create and use the funds. If the board would like create a Capital Reserve Fund it would need to be added to the budget vote for approval

Upcoming budget presentation

Discussions - The February 9th budget presentation will include operation and maintenance, transportation, debt service, and employee benefits.

ESSA and NY Transparency Reports

Discussion: Both reports were submitted to the state. These new reports contain data that to create standardized per pupil costs and other ratios by building across the State. NYS is looking to see if schools are equally distributing funds in a district that has multiple elementary, middle, and/or high schools. The report shows that we spend a similar amount per student in each building. RHS - \$24,528.65; BMS - \$23,180.02; and CLS - \$22,071.55. These per student amounts are only building specific expenses and don't include district-wide amounts such as transportation, debt service, and maintenance. At this time we don't have any data to compare with other districts.

School Lunch Fund Update

Discussion - We are currently showing a slight loss of around \$6,000 but this number does not factor in current inventory.

Enrollment update

Discussions - The district is currently down 13 students since BEDS day from 958 to 945. We will be watching the enrollment numbers in 3rd and 4th grade particularly as they currently are around 70-75 students.

Board priorities update and planning.

Discussions - High Quality teaching and learning - Albert will give a formal presentation to the board with the principals most likely in March.

Social/Emotional - The Feb 12th conference day is centered around this topic with Camp Ramapo doing a session on trauma response.

Equity - As reported in our last meeting the committee had its first meeting and will be meeting every two weeks. The state passed the bathroom bill, and we will be changing signs and working on having a place to change in the locker room that is private.

Agenda items for next meeting on February 11th.

- 1 - Formal proposal for curricular program changes
- 2 - Fund balance/revenues
- 3 - Budget update

Respectfully submitted by Diane Lyons