

4.2.2

Finance Committee Meeting

October 5, 2017

Attendees: Joe Phelan, Tom Burnell, Steve Jenkins, Liz Raum and Mark Fleischhauer

The Computer lease from BOCES

- The computer lease from BOCES (approved by the Board in May) had an unexpected cost increase of \$15,000. After analysis, Steve Jensen believed that the increase cost did not add benefit and has reduced the original amount of our lease from \$66,785.66 to \$32,904.92 (refer to memo in Board packet)
- The additional cost was in relation to the "domain environment" part of the plan (increasing the ability of our schools to talk with one another and the issue of non-compatible domains).
- This is not part of the Smart Bond

Potential State Aid Money Due District

- There are companies who provide this service, fees ranging from 15 to 25% of money due BUT the company does not guarantee your district actually retrieving the overpaid money due back to the district, that job becomes yours.
- There has not been a resounding success rate of retrieving money back from the state and the state itself is running ten years behind in reviewing districts state aid.

State Mandated Long Range Financial Plan

- There is a now state mandated Long Range Financial Plan, which is to forecast 3 to 5 years
- Every year will require an updated plan, to be made public and in our budget brochure
- The State wants us to look beyond the budget of this year and detect potential future financial stress
- The biggest factor in long range financial planning are the "assumptions" such as health care, teacher retirement, special education, enrollment, etc.

Tracking data for the Long Range Financial Plan mandate

- NYS Comptrollers & ASBO provide software for tracking but there is no detail and both are very basic
- NYS Comptrollers & ASBO software does not allow for account codes, choosing actual line items for particular fluctuations
- Forecast 5 is a software program that does provide a wide range of detail and graphics (good for the budget brochure we send out)
- Forecast 5 allows forecasting by using account codes and because of the detail you can use line by line, you can then manipulate specific assumptions
- Forecast 5 calculates what past increases/decreases have occurred
- Forecast 5 cost is between \$6-7,000 through BOCES, which means we get 50% back the following year
- This is not a lease
- This tool, Forecast 5, is much more robust in forecasting the "what if's" of the budget (personnel benefits, special education, transportation)
- Whilst at the convention, we will stop by the Forecast 5 booth, get a sense of their company and product, and if we like what we hear discuss a visit with demonstration here in Rhinebeck