

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting - April 8, 2021

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

Fall Reopening Plan

- **Committee Discussion:** Albert shared the broad strokes of how he envisions a model for delivery of instruction in our district in Fall 2021. He sees RCSD operating all three schools full days, every day, with in-person instruction. There would be an application process for individuals with ADA-defined medical needs (i.e. a qualifying disability or condition) to attend remote schooling through a BOCES program. The BOCES remote program would be shared by several other county districts and would be taught by BOCES instructors, not Rhinebeck teachers.
- Our planning would not include remote support locally, although the district may employ some of the tools that we used this year, in certain circumstances. There would also be minimum duration of absence (perhaps two weeks) before a student could attend the BOCES remote program. Whatever is decided, there will be a public presentation and other communications dedicated to helping our families understand how it will be different from this year.
- **Full Board Input:** This committee supports the proposed approach and is requesting feedback from the full board about whether you support moving forward with the BOCES remote model.

2021-22 Budget

- **Committee Discussion:** We explored a few scenarios, looking at long-term fiscal impacts of different tax levy numbers. The current budget proposal has a 2.37% tax levy increase, which is well below our allowable levy (2.93%) and appears to be less of an increase relative to the cap than our neighboring districts are discussing. Our community is in a fortunate position, in that we have a tax base growth of 1.36%, which means that the average homeowner in our district should end up only seeing an increase of 1.01% to their school tax bill. (That is an average, so individual homeowners may see more or less, depending on their property.) We also discussed the fact that monies the district receives from the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan are one-time payments with restrictions on usage and cannot be part of future budget calculations. A tax levy of 2.37% would fund our current budget plans, and would not require cutting additional programs or services, as we have had to consider in recent years.
- **Full Board Input:** The committee supports a tax levy increase of 2.37%, which is below the tax levy cap. Does the full board support this number?

Respectfully submitted by Jaclyn Savolainen

Next meeting: Thursday, May 13, 5:15 pm