

## **Budget and Finance Committee Meeting**

### **February 5, 2024**

**Called to Order:** 5:34pm

**In Attendance:** Members- Tracy Bigney, Linda Graban, Heather Lander, Jared Fulgoni, and Kelly Theriault. Others present-Rachel Downs.

#### **Budget Update**

Kelly Theriault, Business Manager, reported that at this point, the District is not in a deficit and is maintaining a positive balance. We won't add much to our fund balance, but given the budget challenges this year, this is a good outcome. The District has a comfortable funding balance, so the impact should be manageable. Transportation continues to be a concern. Another vehicle is out of service and will likely cost between \$4,500 and \$6,000 for repairs. Keith Kennedy, RSU 63 Mechanic, advised that he will look at the issues closer before sending to a repair shop. The initial diagnosis is the van needs a new transmission. We are unable to do this safely in-house as we do not have a vehicle lift. As of right now, the van has been towed back to the bus garage where it will remain until next budget year to be repaired. The Committee asked for an update on the status of the two bus drivers that are training? Both are waiting on dates in different phases: one is waiting for their written permit test, while the other waiting for their license test. Zachary Chenier, Transportation Coordinator, reports that they are confident that both trainees will pass their respective tests. In addition, discussion ensued regarding the bus garage. First, there was an update on the additional damage that has occurred due to the weather and passing of time, the track is now buckling on the good door. The Committee also decided to send the garage out to bid through the normal bid process in a final attempt to find a local contractor. Kelly Theriault advised that the bid process will take approximately two weeks and that the Committee should be aware that the District might lose the current contractor. Rachel Downs asked if the full board would be notified of this change, since the board had voted at the January meeting to move forward with the repairs as quoted. Kelly stated that by policy the Board would have to accept the bids, so it would be on the next agenda. Mr. Fulgoni advised no other notification was needed and reaffirmed that the Committee's decision to go to bid was made to absolve any concerns around the validity of the process.

#### **FY25 Budget**

The Committee set the following tentative dates to review the FY25 Budget:

- March 4, 2024 at 5:30pm, Holbrook Middle School
- March 20, 2024 at 5:30pm, Holbrook Middle School
- March 25, 2024 at 5:30pm, Holden Elementary School

#### **Other**

On January 19, 2024, RSU 63 received a Petition for Bargaining Agent Certification by Majority Sign-Up from the RSU 63 Education Association and the Maine Labor Relations Board to represent Educational Technicians and Food Service Workers. Kelly Theriault discussed that salary budget lines have accounted for this, but it is difficult to predict the final outcome of negotiations. She further explained that RSU 63 hourly wages are comparable with other area districts, so benefits would likely be the prominent change. She also made note that the Hourly Employee Handbook will need to be updated to reflect these changes once the Petition is approved, as well as salary and benefits for those hourly staff still covered by the handbook.

#### **Next Meeting**

March 4, 2024 at 5:30pm, Holbrook Middle School

**Meeting Adjourned:** 6:09pm

**Approved: February 26, 2024**