

Budget and Finance Committee Meeting

01/12/2022

Members Present In Person: Tracy Bigney and Linda Graban

Members Present Remotely: Cherie Faulkner

Also Present In Person: Susan Smith, Kelly Theriault, Ashley Allen, Tracy Roberts (6:15pm), and Sara Miller

Called to Order: 6:02pm

FY22 Financials:

Cost Center Summary: Discussion on facilities, revenue, long term substitutes, and sick bank need. Line #557 incorrectly coded the \$1.3million IAQ Budget to our general fund budget. That made the facilities cost center budget and expenses incorrect. That line will be moved to the IAQ/Bond projects.

December FY22 Detail: No concerns or questions.

Hot Lunch: December financial is showing in the red, but two months of accounts receivable are outstanding. Once accounted for, the department is running slightly in the black-right where we want it to be. Supt. Smith needs to go in and approve the claim for reimbursement.

Staffing: Superintendent Smith reviewed the ED 279 form from the State of Maine on public education funding. This form changes yearly based on staffing numbers, student count, and approved education budget from the State and is generally released around the end of January or beginning of February. Kelly Theriault advised the class size model does not change yearly. The state reviews that on a rotating schedule, every 3-4 years. Discussion took place on how the funding is calculated. Superintendent Smith will share a ED 279 power point to all Budget and Finance Staff for further explanation on how the ED 279 is calculated.

Superintendent Smith shared student enrollment number comparison since 2018. Discussion took place on the larger class sizes. Superintendent Smith advised it is harder than anticipated, but it is unclear if that is due to COVID, mix of kids, or because they have higher numbers. Additional Ed Techs were brought in to help. Mrs. Allen added this year has been very hard for teaching overall.

Superintendent Smith shared the Advisory Committee Staffing Recommendation from seven years ago and the current (January 2022) Staffing. At that time, the District had four classrooms per grade and enrollment supported four classrooms per grade. Tracy Roberts voiced her concern for using outdated (2014) staffing recommendations to base current staff planning. She recommends to disregard this document and have staffing be part of the Strategic Planning. She also recommends to go back to three teachers per grade levels, realign Ed Techs, and allow time for Strategic Planning. Superintendent Smith advised Ed Tech's will need to be reviewed closely as some of the funding for those positions is through ESSER funds. Superintendent Smith reviewed the current staffing per grade level, specials staffing, school counselors, and special education staffing. Cherie Faulkner and Linda Graban are also in favor of returning to three teachers per grade level.

FY23 Budget Time Line: Draft timeline was reviewed. Workshop dates and times were set for March. (See Attached)

Other: Cherie Faulkner stated "she was told there was a mouse problem wreaking havoc at the Holden School" and asked if an exterminator could be hired to take care of the mice problem. Superintendent Smith said "No and the reason is, the Health Inspector came the other day, and I checked with Marie (Holden Cook), and Holden Staff, the problem is less this year than it has been in previous years." Superintendent Smith advised there are three ways we can help prevent the mice problem, but pesticides are not an option for schools. This issue was not brought to the attention of administration. The problem is being addressed and steps are being taken (trap, store food in containers, caulk/fill holes and small places mice could be entering).

Next Meetings

- Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 5:30pm

Adjourned: 7:46pm

APPROVED: February 28, 2022