

MEETING: Oxbow Unified Union School District Board

DATE: Wednesday, February 5, 2020

TIME: 6:00 PM

PLACE: OHS library

Board members: Danielle Corti, Melissa Gordon

Administrators: Bruce Williams, Jean Wheeler, Marla Ianello, Brian Emerson, Kate Paxton, Keith Merrick

Public: Ted Pogacar, Amy Hayward, Lance Mills

CALL TO ORDER

Welcome

- D. Corti called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM, noting the lack of a quorum, therefore no action will be taken at the meeting.

Board Business

- Agenda Review

Remove Executive Session. Approval of the 1/15/20 meeting minutes will be added to the Feb 19 meeting agenda.

- No contracts
- Correspondence
 - The Low-St. John Forest grant form requires a signature. Will be added to the Feb 19 agenda.
 - An anonymous letter was received expressing concern with how the Mr. Emerson situation was handled.

Public Comment, 6:07

No public comment.

Budget, 6:07

K. Merrick distributed the attached drafted proposed FY2021 budgets.

- It may be possible to increase the equalized pupil from \$668 to \$676. This has not been finalized yet. Page 2 of the attached drafts was prepared using the \$676 rate at the 6.4% Common Level Approval increased tax rate.
- Special Education revenue is down.
- Meals are still under discussion and are not on this draft.
- \$22,000 under transportation in the BES budget for a late bus will be removed after the discussion prompted several issues that require further consideration:
 - Late buses could accommodate BES and OHS students, but that would add transportation expenses to the OHS budget.
 - Would a late bus exclude Orange and Waits River students?
 - If NES were to contemplate a late bus, it may be more expensive than \$22,000 because of the larger geographic area.
 - M. Gordon would like a comprehensive discussion about a possible late bus before the expenses are added to the budget.
- K. Merrick will confirm if the \$48,128 in the School Board and Treasurer line encompasses audit fees, board stipends, Fidelity bond insurance policy.

- Food service deficit has to stay in food services. The net of the general fund surplus and deficits does not include food service.
 - M. Gordon suggested a separate article that represents just the food service deficit.
- The estimated State Education Spending is \$76,026. Surplus is applied to the number, which increases school spending.
- In Newbury, the tax rate is 1.6526, a 6.1% increase.
- The subtotal adjusted Education Spending per Equalized Pupil for River Bend: \$16, 814. For OUUSD: \$18,279.
- All benefits are aggregated in one number.
- B. Williams looked into the trust fund numbers and asked if it might be worth considering using some of the unrestricted funds. There are not many unrestricted funds, but the library fund may be an option.
- M. Gordon asked for a budget format that highlights changes and increases.
- M. Gordon thanked the budget committee, principals, Keith, and Lori Blood for their hard work on the budget.
- The budget committee will meet again next week.

BES budget discussion

- .5 behavior support position and .5 math interventionist additions to the budget.
 - Student behavior has been a major concern and BES has tried a few behavior programs and undergone several behavior expectations discussions.
 - The staff is optimistic about the benefits and improvements already made since January, when the .5 behavior support position was added.
- Increase pre-K program from 3 to 5 mornings a week.
- Most increases in the budget are out of their control: OESU assessment, special education, and E91 compliance numbers are all up. Increases have not been made where they are needed and wanted: professional development, facilities upgrade to security systems, and general infrastructure needs.
- K. Paxton would like further clarification, itemization of the OESU assessment and an explanation of the Special Education revenue and expenses, and the ADM.
 - K. Merrick says the assessment formula is: minus what is reimbursed is net.

OHS budget discussion

- .5 IT position added to the budget. Presently using Systems Plus for IT issues.
- CFP funds will not be confirmed until July 1. Not adding an additional interventionist to the budget at this time.
- French and Drivers Ed teachers are staying in the budget.
- An 8th grade math teacher is needed. Is there a possibility the 8th graders could take math with the Waits River 8th grade math teacher?
- An athletic trainer is not in the budget.
- One \$28,000 custodian position will be removed from the budget.
- The student activities line includes athletics.
- \$1000 was added to each grade for instruction materials and project supplies.
- The clinical behavior position is shared with BES and NES.
- An academic interventionist is needed. If the position was shared with BES and NES, that would help students transition between elementary and middle school.

Academic interventionist discussion

An academic interventionist would assist with students in need of individual instruction who are presently being mainstreamed with the rest of their class when they are not achieving the standards of their grade level. They don't qualify for Special Education and they are not behaviorally problematic, but these students would benefit greatly from individual instruction.

- B. Emerson and T. Pogacar agree that literacy needs are extensive. Students are entering middle school with reading skills significantly lower than their grade level.
- M. Gordon agrees it would be ideal to have an interventionist cover grades 5-8 so students are academically ready to advance with their class.

Adjournment, 8:00

M. Gordon made a MOTION to adjourn. D. Corti seconded. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Briggs