

OUUSD Budget/Finance Committee Meeting – 10/26

Attendees: Danielle, Tim, Erin, Marcey, Kaitlin, Randy, Emilie, Linda

Call to order – 12:07

Approve minutes from 8/16/21 & 9/20/21 – Minutes approved.

Agenda:

- Special Education- General overview of funds and changes
 - Act 173 passed by State of VT, that shifted the way Education is funded in the state. Moves away from a direct reimbursement model and towards a Block Funding model.
 - Instead of providing services and getting directly reimbursed, the State will provide a “chunk” of money to fund those services.
 - VT Agency of Education is continually sending out various iterations of what the funding may look like for all districts, funding has not been finalized as of yet.
 - Because this is a change in the process, this will slow down how the OESU prepares their budget for 2022.
 - OESU Finance Office will be generating expenses, and will work off of what the estimate is for the funding is – but cannot finish until final amounts are received.
 - As of now, funding looks comparable to what OESU has received under the old model
 - Typically OESU budget is approved late November/Early December, expected to be pushed later into December.

- Financial report by Linda on items over/under by \$10,000

Specific Questions:

- *Social Emotional position in Newbury/Bradford* – position was thought to be in the budget, however was not included. Working on funding options to have it included in the budget going forward.
- *Oxbow Music Salary* – 2021 budget amount was too low, actuals are right
- *Student Activity Salary* – not an individual salary for 1 person, amount represents stipends paid to faculty/staff who sign-up to lead activities
- *Oxbow Communication Position* – Currently 2 staff members who pick up extra time to help with the communication work at Oxbow. This is not done at either BES or NES, where the Communication work is done by individuals as part of their every-day work. Emilie and Randy have spoken with Oxbow Principal about this position, considering the best way to structure this role – with the potential of bringing it to the OUUSD level to help with communications for the district.
- *Deferred Spending* – Were there projects deferred in 2021 due to the uncertainty of the budget that will be moved into future years? As of right now, Linda is uncertain as to the volume of these projects (if there are any). Will have a better sense as she sits down with the individual schools to get a sense of their budget needs.

Unaudited Results – Still making adjustments, however total positive variance is roughly \$280k for FY 2021

Review of Individual Budgets, variances of \$10k or more:

- *Bradford Elementary School* –
 - Pre-K underbudget due to lower-than-expected enrollment
 - No expenses for Special Education Pre-K
 - No After-School program in 2021
 - Direct Instruction: variances caused by changes in benefit selections, Unbudgeted new hire pension payments, more than expected employees elected to the Dental Insurance buy-out, surplus in instructional materials
 - Guidance Counselor and Social/Emotional Positions are netted together – Negative variance is due to Social/Emotional position not funded in 2021
 - Technology – additional equipment for chromebooks and ipads in excess of what was budgeted
 - Principals Budget: Salary higher than expected due to change in position and consultant in to assist with transition, Dues and Fees – budget was estimated too low – infinite campus purchase in this line-item
 - Facilities – \$50k over budget drive by salary overage due to additional help for covid-related needs, decrease in property insurance due to reduction in claims, communications increase due to new phone system
 - Special Education: variances caused by Time Study for reallocation of paraprofessionals, Changes in benefit selections

- *Newbury Elementary School* –
 - Preschool costs lower than expected due to lower enrollment
 - Paraprofessional costs adjusted due to time study reallocation
 - Guidance – specialist position reduced to part-time FTE
 - Social/Emotional position overage related to unbudgeted position
 - New Hire for Nurse, change in salary and benefits
 - New Hire for Facilities, increase in salary
 - Significant amount of repairs at Newbury, causing overage in budget
 - Decrease in Property Liability charge due to lower claims
 - Special Education Paraprofessional costs – Time Study for reallocation of cost

- *Oxbow* –
 - Salary changes related to new hires/departures and changes in benefit selections
 - Surplus of \$50k for alternative tuition unused in 2021
 - Supply costs held down in 2021
 - Athletics decrease related COVID-19
 - Nursing – new hire, adjustment in compensation
 - Library – Decrease in aid usage, reduction in cost
 - Principal Office’s decreased staffing, reduced cost
 - Technology, reduction in contracted services and purchases of software
 - Positive outcomes in property insurance claims
 - Special Education Paraprofessional costs – Time Study for reallocation of cost

- *Riverbend* –
 - Salary changes related to new hires/departures and changes in benefit selections
 - Contracted Services for Adult Ed variance included in Salary item
 - Reduced spending on supplies & equipment
 - Positive Variance of purchased computer services
- Update on Trust fund/scholarship fund project (Erin & Kaitlin)
 - Sub-committee will meet on Friday 10/29 – will provide update at next month's meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 1 PM.