

Mt Greylock Regional School Committee March 1, 2019

Present: Joe, Dan, Regina, Ali, Steve

Absent: Al, Christina

Susan Clark: Williamstown Finance Committee: Also present

Kim: Dealing with building issue

2:36pm

Three areas:

1. How apportionment functioning this year.
2. Current numbers in place for use (choice) to offset total expenditures.
3. Go through detailed for hopeful expenditures.

First area:

Page 3: State with all of its Chapter 70 efforts, thrown us some curveballs. Despite Chapter 70 increasing in parts of state, we are not seeing b/c our two towns are relatively wealthier than many other towns and thus not seeing a boost now. According to the state will see in a few years from now. We are not first in line.

Our two town demographics are changing in terms of EQV and municipal revenue growth factor that state calculates. State has Williamstown see a higher minimum local contribution than last year, Lanesborough see less. Two elementary schools have 100% of costs go back to towns so not a factor. So even though middle/high school expenses very similar this year and next, has led to a few hundred thousand dollars more for Williamstown to pay due to the state.

Under capital apportionment (rows 30-32): slightly lower due to less interest being paid. Have short term borrowing needed to close out the loans. Could be in flux a bit. Because the MSBA does not reimburse after hit a certain point in the project, only writes a check at the end, so even though planned for we need to do some short term borrowing on the order of a year. Will be on the order of \$5 or \$6 million.

[Al arrives 2:48pm]

We have a large class from Williamstown moving up from WES to MtG; while we use 5 year rolling averages the state does not and that will affect things.

Second area:

Current concepts on how to utilize revolving accounts / revenue to offset expenditures.

Slight decline in MtG in numbers of students tuitioning in, but a slightly higher rate (DESE rate less special ed transportation costs). LES tuition in year 2 of a three year plan to get to DESE rate.

[Kim arrives 2:55]

PreK tuition are conservative estimates.

Conservative grant funding estimates.

Circuit breaker: based on where need is in FY20.

Other funds only regionalization aid. Again probably a conservative estimate of funds to help offset the costs of regionalization. Distributing to the three schools based on our chapter 70 formula.

Row 3: Columns G thru I versus B thru D: Overall up by about .2147%. LES up by 350,000, WES down a hundred thousand, MtG down about two hundred thousand.

Numbers of percentages: 45.830% MtG, 18.240%, 35.930% WES. Based on current foundation enrollments.

Some summer costs did not make it into transportation line, so numbers will have to be adjusted.

\$80,000 increase in LES salaries: from new contracts, need for a certain position. One teacher has had classifications changed.

What supporting documentation does TMS have for some of the numbers?

Page 17: \$58,000 tech/instructional hardware. Very old phone system / PA system (\$7000 to replace PA system), wiring for internet (long overdue), cannot put the projectors in the ceilings at LES (so might save \$28,000 as will have on carts). We have one van, saving a lot of money for WES/MtG. It would be in our best interest to explore leasing van option / paying a driver. Cost of annual transportation is such that two years of work we'd own the van. Advantages of having two vans. We are seeing rising costs in part b/c of adding cameras (we're one of the districts that doesn't have, and have seen incidents this year where that would be useful). [Dufour put the amount for the pink bus in the wrong spot.]

Do not have a staff member to work on preventative maintenance. That is a request in the budget but makes sense. Allow reallocation of workers.

Have \$27,000 LES and \$16,000 on WES on longevity being double counted.... Also looking into why LES not showing FY19 FICA/Medicare spending.

Page 15: WES: Special salary line: showing movement of \$255,00 to \$364,000, but a lot of this is moving the technology teacher into the specialist line. Retirement related savings. Some items are being billed differently. Shakespeare and company went up a bit. WESE paid for that in the past.... Two new kids coming with ESL costs. Adding social worker \$55,000 (direct result of growing needs of children, strategic planning in feedback from fac/staff/students, one of the top priorities of that committee). Going up three lines: Page 17: parallels work at LES, upgrades needed (phone system, clocks; did LES last year for phone system). Page 19: health care, sped savings. Not slashing the budget, special education needs are decreasing, significant retirements....

MtGreylock: With this new building came opportunities for new supplies for classrooms / upgrade curriculum. A lot of the changes are reflected in investments. Trying to get all buildings into a nice predictable upgrade schedule so can have consistent spending.... As still dealing with construction issues

not the year to look at heating savings. Because of larger class may need more chromebooks. Purchased a new gator (rolling device for landscaping). Use it for athletic stuff.

[[Steve leaves 4:32]]

The committee discussed the need to verify the salary and benefits lines.

Motion to adjourn by Regina, seconded by Al, passes unanimously at 4:53pm.