

GWRSB Finance Committee Meeting Notes

Time, Date and Location of Meeting

6:03 pm – November 18, 2021 – Crescent Lake School

Attending

GWRSB Finance Committee: Jack Widmer – Team Leader, James Pittman, Dr. James Manning, Stefanie King

Administration: Superintendent Kathy Cuddy-Egbert, Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes, Director of Special Education Susan Merrell.

Other: Kelly Mask

Subject Matter

Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2023 – General Fund

Budget Overview/Discussion

Susan Merrell presented the proposed budget for special education with an increase of 21.23%. Currently, approximately 15% of the District's total population are students with disabilities. The tuition line has increased due to DCYF placements, students who have moved into the District, and an increase in elementary aged children with autism and very challenging behaviors requiring specialized programming. These were all unexpected tuitions. Ms. Merrell expects the cost of private providers will increase 5% next year for out of district placements. She provided a breakdown on current costs and what she anticipates to be close to costs and presented the following staffing requests: to add a 30% special education position to Effingham Elementary School, paraprofessionals (5-6) at 34 hours per week to meet the needs of the elementary Partner Program, and two paraprofessionals at 29 hours per week at Carpenter School to support the eight incoming preschool students. Mr. Widmer thanked Ms. Merrell for her presentation which concluded at 6:44pm.

The Board committee discussed the proposed budget and looked at each line item to see if the proposed budget as presented can be reduced. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert will make a few adjustments before it goes to the full board. There was discussion on line 640 Books and other printed media and whether or not the object name can be changed to include digital media. Ms. O'Blenes explained that the codes and object names are used by the state so she prefers not to change codes or names until the state updates the list.

Adjournment: 7:45 pm

Recorded by,



Linda Murphy

School Board Secretary

Approved by School Board 12.06.21