

GWRSB Finance Committee Meeting Notes

Time, Date and Location of Meeting

6:00 pm – November 19, 2020 – Crescent Lake School

Attending

GWRSB Finance Committee: Jack Widmer – Team Leader, Dr. James Manning, James Pittman, Dana Streeter

Administration: Superintendent Kathy Cuddy-Egbert, Business Administrator Kathy O’Blenes, Director of Special Education and Guidance Services Susan Merrell

Subject Matter

Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 proposed general fund budget

Discussion/Decisions

Susan Merrell thanked the School Board and said the weight of their positions is not easy. She presented the proposed budget for special education providing a breakdown of enrollment for outside and/or court ordered placements, hybrid/remote learners as well as students attending additional/non-cohort days. She anticipates approximately \$433,742 in revenue for 2019-2020. There were significant changes with licensing and credentialing in the new rules governing Medicaid last spring. There were also Executive orders that significantly influenced special education services and resulted in downshifting of costs to school districts. She said there is potential legislation that would allow students with disabilities to stay in school until they complete the school year when they turn 21 which would also increase costs of special education for that child. Ms. Merrell said there were also unforeseen expenditures for remote speech and occupational therapy due to COVID-19. The district could not cover all the services with existing resources so the district contracted with eLuma for speech and language services and Boothby for Occupational Therapy services. Transportation costs are higher than expected due to reduced numbers of students allowed to ride buses due to the COVID-19 protocols combined with the need for targeted interventions and specially designed instruction requiring multiple bus runs during the day. Ms. Merrell said the extended school year program might need to be lengthened, and we are not enrolling typical preschoolers in the program – both of these have a financial impact to the district. She said the consultant line was increased due to a number of children with low incidence, high need disabilities. Ms. Merrell presented two staffing requests: a 50% special education position at Crescent Lake School and a 50% special education position at Tuftonboro Central School. The overall increase is 1.98%. There were no questions for Ms. Merrell and she left the meeting.

The Board discussed the proposed budget and ways to reduce it. They decided to eliminate staffing requests (math teacher and two special education positions), reduce the Buildings and Maintenance Warrant Article to \$150,000 and to reduce snow removal grounds care.

Adjournment: 7:50 pm

Recorded by,



Linda Murphy
School Board Secretary

Approved by School Board 12/07/20