

GWRSB Finance Committee Meeting Notes

Time, Date and Location of Meeting

6:00 pm – November 17, 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, Guy Donnelly, Bruce Farr, James Reilly, Patti Morrissey

Subject Matter

Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 proposed general fund budget

Budget Overview/Discussion

Each administrator gave an overview of how the year has been going and thanked the Board for their support.

- Mr. Donnelly thanked the Board for offering student activities. He said students’ value being in school and seem to need less redirection. Asynchronous learning can be challenging so the high school is piloting the program Canvas paid this year by the State. Canvas is an alternative learning platform that gives teachers the ability to build and manage courses based on their local curriculum, manage and grade assignments, and communicate with students. Mr. Donnelly presented the proposed budget for Kingswood Regional High School showing a proposed 2% increase. The largest increase is in technology to replace Chrome Books. Mr. Donnelly would also like to add a math teacher so they can offer more math selections.
- Mr. Reilly presented the proposed budget for Kingswood Regional Middle School with a proposed increase of .13%. He said Information Technology Director Paul Michalski has been incredible working to create a decent system for Chrome Books. Mr. Streeter asked what the budget impact would be if we are still facing the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said the budget reflects a normal school year. If we are still dealing with the pandemic, staffing and cleaning supplies will increase and she hopes there will be federal assistance available.
- Mr. Farr presented the proposed budget for Lakes Region Technology Center. He said the curriculum continues to increase due to the rising pricing for materials needed to run the programs (food, metal, lumber, gas). He said costs are well beyond inflation and operating costs have taken a horrendous hit. The Perkins Grant has been utilized to improve instruction, staff development and technology upgrades. This grant is for a five-year period and is based on the free and reduced formula. He said textbooks are almost extinct at the tech center because it makes more sense to contract online software. The proposed increase to the Lakes Region Technology Center budget is 2.48%. There are no staffing requests but Mr. Farr does support the math position requested at the high school. He said emphasis in this area would be helpful.

Mr. Widmer thanked the administrators for their presentations and said we will be back tomorrow evening at 6:00 pm for the elementary principals to present their budgets.

Adjournment: 6:55 pm

Recorded by,

Linda Murphy

Linda Murphy
School Board Secretary

Approved by School Board 12/07/2020